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# Daily Report

# Near East & South Asia

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# Daily Report
## Near East & South Asia

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## 24 October Middle East and South Asia Review

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### Tripartite Meetings in Aqaba, Baghdad

Jordanian King Husayn received Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Aqaba 22 October, Amman radio reported.

A second tripartite summit took place the following day when Mubarak and 'Arafat held talks with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn in Baghdad, according to Voice of the Masses radio.

Commenting on the Aqaba meeting in a statement cited by Amman radio, King Husayn expressed "full satisfaction" with the outcome of the talks and noted that he and 'Arafat agreed to continue contacts to coordinate stands on the Palestine issue.

Cairo radio broadcast remarks by Mubarak on his return to Egypt in which he said the talks between 'Arafat and King Husayn were held in an "excellent and cordial" atmosphere with no apparent conflict of interests. Mubarak disclosed that the PLO leader expressed support for a confederation with Jordan, stating that 'Arafat and the king "are in agreement on this."

Mubarak added that there was "excellent understanding" in his meeting with Saddam Husayn, the purpose of which was "merely to exchange views on certain issues."

Among other comment on the Aqaba talks, Cairo radio said they will influence the Israeli election by encouraging "moderate Israeli forces which accept the voice of justice and peace."

In Israel, Jerusalem television noted that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's office linked the meeting with attempts to involve Arab leaders in Israel's election campaign and IDF radio carried an interview with the office director in which he expressed concern that Egypt is acting to advance the goals of the PLO.

In contrast, Israeli Foreign Ministry circles took a "very positive" view of Mubarak's role in organizing the Aqaba summit and welcomed King Husayn's apparent willingness to play a more effective role in the peace process, Jerusalem radio noted.

As for the Palestinians, 'Arafat stated that the Aqaba meeting was intended to coordinate Arab stands and give impetus to the peace process, MENA noted. He confirmed that the PNC will convene 12 November to consider a number of options including the proclamation of a Palestinian state and/or a provisional government. The PFLP contended that the Aqaba meeting resulted from "pressures brought to bear on the Palestinian leadership to revive coordination between the PLO and the king," according to AFP. Criticism of the meeting was also expressed by the Damascus-based Fatah Provisional Command, Radio Monte Carlo noted.

### Israel

**Election Debate**—Differences over the best way to promote the peace process were the main focus of a 23 October election debate between Prime Minister Shamir and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, broadcast by Jerusalem television.

Shamir reaffirmed his belief in direct negotiations, contending that King Husayn and other Arab leaders will join such negotiations once they realize that an international conference is not an option.

Peres defended his plans for negotiations through an international conference, telling voters he wants to change the entire Middle East picture and allow Israel to devote itself to its basic needs instead of concentrating on war and the arms race.

The debate also touched on King Husayn's recent criticism of Likud policies during an interview in a U.S. television program which also featured Peres. Shamir accused the Alignment of introducing an Arab leader into the election campaign, asserting that this "blatant intervention" is "unprecedented."

Peres stressed the importance of securing Husayn as a negotiating partner, noting that despite their differences, he and Husayn agree on how to begin negotiations.

**Territories**—At least 12 Arabs were injured in further clashes with the IDF in the territories 21-23 October, according to Jerusalem and IDF radio reports. The military authorities released 50 Gazan detainees from Qezi'ot Detention Center as a "humane gesture," Jerusalem radio noted.

### Lebanon

The Islamic Jihad threatened to harm its two U.S. hostages in retaliation for Israel's air strikes on targets in Lebanon 21 October, AFP reported.

In a communique accompanied by a photograph of hostage Terry Anderson, the organization warned "criminal America" that "it will not escape retribution, particularly as concerns the hostages we're holding."

A second Islamic Jihad communique cited by AFP warned that the hostages will face "negative repercussions" unless the United States ends its "interference" in Lebanon and its "support for isolationist forces."

A woman who was arrested at Milan airport 22 October may be a courier for the Islamic Jihad, Rome radio stated. Letters and photographs of U.S. hostages in Lebanon were found in the false bottom of her suitcase after she disembarked from a Lebanese airliner.

Among other developments following the Israeli air raids, Beirut radio announced that the overall casualty toll was 15 people dead and 35 injured. A Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio commentary castigated Syria for failing to use its antiaircraft missiles against the Israeli planes, viewing this as further evidence of Syria's "ugly conspiratorial role" and its "collusion with the Zionist enemy."

PLO official Bassam Abu Sharif claimed that Syria has dispatched a brigade of "special forces" to the Sidon area in preparation for an attack on Palestinians based there, according to INA.

A REUTER report cited by Beirut radio stated that Syria and its Palestinian allies have moved forces near Sidon and the radio noted that 'Arafat's supporters clashed with Amal Movement fighters 22 October in hills around the city.

As for the situation in Israel's "security zone," Voice of Hope radio announced that the South Lebanese Army (SLA) killed four "saboteurs" who attempted to attack SLA positions near Hasbayya 22 October. The PFLP confirmed that 4 of its men were killed in the clash but claimed to have killed 10 SLA men, according to Beirut radio.

Jerusalem radio disclosed that the IDF and SLA have arrested 20 people suspected of assisting the Shi'ite youth who carried out the 19 October suicide attack on IDF soldiers. One of the detainess helped booby-trap the car, and another acted as a guide to the driver.

If the suspects are convicted by the SLA, they may be executed by firing squad, the radio said.

Meanwhile, an IDF captain who was wounded in the car bomb explosion died of his wounds 22 October, the radio noted.

Commenting on the political crisis in Beirut, Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi told AL-KIFAH AL-'ARABI that he recognizes General Michel 'Awn's administration and he also criticized Syria for holding talks with the United States on Lebanese affairs, according to AFP.

Muslim leaders cited by Beirut radio deplored the Libyan leader's remarks, while a member of 'Awn's government praised Al-Qadhdhafi's "frank and clear" stand in an interview with the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon.

In Libya, Al-Qadhdhafi discussed the Lebanese situation during a 22 October meeting with visiting Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, JANA noted.

In another development, the Voice of Lebanon announced that former president Amin al-Jumayyil left Beirut 22 October to begin a tour of Arab and European countries.

In a press interview cited by Beirut radio, Al-Jumayyil linked his departure with threats from the Lebanese Forces, noting that his wife was told there would be "bad" consequences if he did not leave the country.

### Iran-Iraq: POW Issue

An Iraqi Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by INA 22 October announced that Iraq has decided to unilaterally release 25 sick Iranian POW's and has asked the International Committee of the Red Cross to repatriate them. Iraq has unilaterally released 645 sick Iranian POW's overall, the spokesman added. He contended that Iran bears full responsibility for delaying the release of POW's, adding that Iran is exploiting the POW issue for political reasons.

In contrast, a Tehran radio commentary held that Iraq is seeking to separate the POW issue from Resolution 598 to meet the pressure of internal complaints and to divert world attention from the negotiations. The radio stressed the need to compile a list of Iranian POW's as soon as possible and to give priority to the release of 700 Iranian soldiers Iraq allegedly captured after the cease-fire.

### Iran

**Response to Fahd**—Iran will reciprocate any "positive" Saudi move to end the problems between the two countries, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati stated in a press interview reported by IRNA. The TEHRAN TIMES viewed Saudi King Fahd's decision to stop media attacks on Iran as "positive diplomacy," IRNA added, and the paper urged Saudi Arabia to pressure Iraq into implementing Resolution 598.

**Internal Situation**—Political parties can operate in Iran provided they do not hatch "plots" against the Islamic Republic or create "obstacles" in its way, Intelligence Minister Mohammad Reyshahri asserted in remarks cited by IRNA. The agency noted that no political party has played a major political role since the dissolution of the Islamic Republican Party.

IRNA also reported remarks by Ayatollah 'Ali Meshkini in which he urged government officials to listen to criticism and stressed that no group should consider its thinking as "revelation sent down from heaven."

**Returnees**—In a Friday sermon carried by Tehran radio, Chief Justice Musavi-Ardebili said the authorities welcome the return of Iranian emigres, but he stressed they must come back to live under "Islamic norms."

**Trade With SFRY**—An Iranian trade delegation signed an agreement with the SFRY for the supply of over 1 million tonnes of crude oil in return for trucks, buses, and other Yugoslav manufactured goods, Tehran radio reported.

### OPEC

Following the joint meeting of the two OPEC committees on pricing and long-term strategy that ended in Madrid 23 October, Secretary General Dr Subroto said progress was made toward achieving a production agreement all 13 members would sign, OPECNA reported.

According to IRNA, however, the ministers failed to agree on production ceilings and oil prices. Madrid radio reported that Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh proposed that Iran and Iraq have equal oil export quotas, and Iran will limit its exports but not its total production. A member of the Iranian delegation cited by IRNA reiterated Iran's opposition to a production quota equal to Iraq's.

According to IRNA, a number of proposals were put forward to settle the issue of Iraq's overproduction. In a message to Iranian Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi, Libyan leader Col al-Qadhdhafi said the main cause for the fall in oil prices was overproduction by Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE, IRNA reported.

### Libya: Foreign Relations

AFP reported that Libya and Zaire have resumed diplomatic relations, noting that this was announced by the Zairian press agency 23 October and confirmed by a Libyan emissary to Kinshasa.

In another development, five Sudanese Government ministers arrived in Tripoli 22 October at the start of a visit to Libya, according to Tripoli radio. Regarding relations with Egypt, Col al-Qadhdhafi urged Libyan information media to "stop responding" to Egyptian "information campaigns" against Libya, JANA noted.

### Algeria

Algiers radio said that 154 civilians and 5 security troops died in the recent unrest, in announcing the official death toll. The material damage amounted to 164 million dinars. The radio also reported that eight students ended a hunger strike following the release of two arrested students and the establishment of a human rights commmittee.

### Afghanistan

**Plenum**—In his address to the PDPA Central Committee plenum 19 October, Najibullah said that some party individuals have engaged in "open anti-state activities and provocations within the Armed Forces against the Republic of Afghanistan to seize power," Kabul radio reported. Najibullah warned that these individuals will be expelled from the party, investigated, and prosecuted.

He also said there is an "urgent need" to purge the cities of enemies who freely roam about them, as this is what caused the fall of Konduz. He added that modern military technology is being transferred to provincial centers and a commission authorized to take "extraordinary measures" may be set up to ensure communication lines. Najibullah also said the opposition is not capable of seizing power, but by entering a coalition they could find their way to power.

**Talks Proposal**—Najibullah declared that the government is ready to talk to the opposition to end the war and establish peace. He made the remarks in a 22 October address carried by Kabul radio at an international conference commemorating the Prophet Muhammad's birthday. He said the meeting can take place in Mecca, if Saudi Arabia agrees.

AFP reported that the offer was rejected by the Afghan opposition alliance in Peshawar. An alliance spokesman said they want to talk to the Soviet Government directly. He added that "Najibullah's days are numbered," and described the proposal as propaganda.

**Opposition Gains**—The mujahidin have set up an administrative council and appointed a governor of Konarha Province, Islamabad radio reported, citing the AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY. The report added that all of the Kabul regime's security posts in the province have either been captured or abandoned.

Meanwhile, AFP reported that the rebels launched an attack on Qandahar airport 22 October, after capturing an important security post nearby. Islamabad radio reported that the siege on the airport was continuing from all sides on 24 October and 50 government troops had been killed and injured.

## Islamic Affairs

### Food Reserve Proposal Gets 'Positive Response'

*BK2010014488 Hong Kong AFP in English 0114 GMT 20 Oct 88*

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 19 (AFP)—Pakistan Wednesday proposed the creation of a food security reserve among members of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), official sources said. Pakistan's proposal received a "positive response" from delegates on the second day of the 45-member OIC Ministerial Conference here, conference sources said. The meeting is to discuss measures for collective self-reliance to counter growing dependence on the import of foodstuffs.

Pakistan proposed that OIC member countries reserve one percent of their production of rice, wheat and maize for emergency use by Moslem countries. A consensus statement due on Thursday envisages greater cooperation among member countries in agriculture to improve output through use of modern technology. Similar cooperation has been proposed to enhance output in livestock, poultry and fisheries.

### Delegates Accept Proposal

*BK2010055588 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 20 Oct 88*

[Text] The ICO ministerial conference on agricultural development and food security concluded its discussion on draft agenda in Islamabad yesterday. A spokesman of the conference later told newsmen that the delegates attending the conference unanimously accepted Pakistan's proposal for setting up a ICO food reserve for food security.

Pakistan has proposed that every member country of the organization may reserve 1 percent of its production of rice, wheat, and maize to meet an emergency situation in any member country.

The spokesman said that the delegates attending the conference also agreed to increase the trade in food materials between the member countries. Cooperation will be stepped up in identifying steps and formulating policies to enhance the production of livestock, poultry, and fisheries. Stress was also laid on the importance of preparing a strategy in science and technology for transfer of agricultural technology and for food security.

The spokesman added there was unanimity in accepting a draft declaration on the food reserve problems among the ICO member countries. It is expected that at the concluding session of the conference today several resolutions will be adopted on food security and agricultural development.

## Palestinian Affairs

### Abu Sharif on Israeli, Syrian Attack on Camps

*JN2110144388 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1345 GMT 21 Oct 88*

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Oct (INA)—Bassam Abu Sharif, adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, has said that the forces of the Syrian regime and the Zionist entity are currently carrying out a comprehensive attack on the Sidon area, the 'Ayn al-Hulwah and Al-Miyah Wa Miyah camps, and the adjacent areas in which the joint [Palestinian-Lebanese] forces are stationed.

In a statement to INA, Abu Sharif added that the Syrian regime has dispatched a brigade of its special forces from the 5th Division of the Syrian Army to attack areas overlooking Sidon, at the same time when Zionist aircraft, artillery, and naval units in Lebanon's territorial waters have begun to attack the Palestinian camps backed by the militias of the agent Amal Movement, whom the Syrian regime has supplied with artillery and missiles.

Abu Sharif said the Palestinian citizens in the camps are now valiantly confronting these criminal attacks in Lebanon by the Syrian regime and the Zionist entity despite the repressive measures and murder the Zionist authorities are carrying out against the Palestinian people in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Palestinian official stressed the PLO will bravely confront all the desperate attempts and barbaric measures the Zionist entity and the Syrian regime are carrying out against the Palestinian people in the occupied homeland and the Lebanese cities and villages.

Bassam Abu Sharif pointed out that the Palestinian people's valiant uprising will continue, despite the martyrdom of 487 Palestinian citizens and despite the fact it has entered its 11th month, until the evacuation of the last Zionist soldier and the liberation of all the Palestinian national soil from the filth of the Zionist invaders and occupiers.

He stressed that the emergency PNC session will be convened in Algiers between 12 and 14 November to discuss issues and reports related to the declaration of an independent Palestinian state and the achievement of a just, comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

### PLO Official Says State To Be Proclaimed 15 Nov

*JN2210155788 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1405 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Text] Dubayy, 22 Oct (WAM)—'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad, PLO Executive Committee member, has said that the establishment of an independent Palestinian state will be proclaimed on 15 November after the conclusion of the PNC emergency session, scheduled to be held in Algiers on 12th of the same month.

In an exclusive statement to the newspaper AL-BAYAN, the Palestinian official said the proclamation of an independent Palestinian state represents an important step on the road to realizing Palestinian hopes and ambitions. He pointed out that the text of the independence document will include a paragraph stating that all who live on Palestinian territory will be given democratic freedoms irrespective of race or creed.

'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad pointed out that the independence document will be based on both historic and international legitimacy. He explained that [UN partition] Resolution No 181 has cut off a part of Palestine to establish the state of "Israel" on it.

The PLO Executive Committee member said that acceptance of the partition resolution or the evacuation of Israeli troops from the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967 is considered the crowning of a long stage of struggle but not the end of the struggle. He asserted that the Palestinians will continue to struggle so that the whole of Palestine will become the country of all Palestinians, with all those it embraced thoughout generations, irrespective of their affiliations, living on its soil.

'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad denied that any pressures were exerted on the Palestinian leaderships regarding the convening of the PNC in Algiers on 12 November. He said the PLO received advice not to hurry things so the impact of the proclamation of stands, connected to the independence document and the political program, will not be lost in the tumult of the Israeli and U.S. election campaigns. He pointed out the PLO would have been able to have transcended these matters if the circumstances in Algiers had allowed the convening of the PNC at an earlier date.

The PLO Executive Committee member asserted that the Soviet Union has not changed its principled stands, which support the Palestinian cause, since the beginning of the stage of international detente. He explained that the Soviets' viewpoint is not to hurry the proclamation of the provisional Palestinian state. They also asked that the Palestinian political program must be flexible, acceptable, and realistic.

He said that the reasons behind the postponement of the formation of a provisional Palestinian state are due to international political developments and to avoid a contradiction between its existence and that of the PLO. It was agreed to postpone it until the dimensions and features of the next political phase are clear. He added that the government, which will be proclaimed at the proper time, will be concerned with Palestinian political dealings. Its proclamation will not cancel the PLO and will have a specific role, which is concerned with negotiations, while the PLO will remain the side concerned with any Palestinian affair.

## PFLP Criticizes 'Arafat's Visit to Egypt

*JN2210125988 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Text] The PFLP saw in the new [Palestinian-Egyptian] moves a new attempt to revive the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. The PFLP said 'Arafat's visit to Egypt and his joint movement with President Husni Mubarak constitute a violation of PNC resolutions and harm the uprising in the occupied territories.

## 'Arafat Participation in Aqaba Talks Criticized

### Fatah Dissidents View Visit

*JN2210175888 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Text] Fatah's Provisional [dissident] Command, led by Colonel Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], has accused the PLO chairman of resorting again to Jordan because he did not succeed in finding a place for himself as an independent side in the settlement process in the Middle East. It sees in this summit a move to support the Israeli Labor Party in the parliamentary elections, scheduled to be held in Israel early next month.

### PFLP Makes Accusations

*NC2310123088 Paris AFP in English 0659 GMT 23 Oct 88*

[Text] Beirut, Oct 23 (AFP)—The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) has accused PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat of bowing to pressure during his meeting this weekend with King Husayn of Jordan.

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak joined the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) leader in Aqaba, Jordan for surprise talks with King Husayn that focused on the possible confederation of Jordan and a future Palestinian state.

The PFLP of George Habash, one of the three main groups within the PLO, said in a statement released here late Saturday that the meetings were the result of "pressures brought to bear on the Palestinian leadership to revive coordination between the PLO and the king."

The group noted that in April 1987 the Palestine National Council (PNC), the Palestinian parliament-in-exile, abrogated a political cooperation agreement with King Husayn and "warned of the dangers of Jordanian-Palestinian coordination and the formation of a joint delegation" to any future Middle East peace talks.

Mr 'Arafat described Saturday's discussions as aimed at "relaunching the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue and coordinating between the two parties, to strike a common stance on convening an international Middle East peace conference."

Egyptian officials said the meetings were also aimed at voters in Israel, and analysts noted that the encounters could boost the chances of Israeli Labour Party leader Shim'on Peres—who favors the involvement of Jordan in talks with the Palestinians.

The other leading components of the PLO are Fatah, headed by Mr 'Arafat, and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

## More on PFLP Reaction

*JN2310125488 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1210 GMT 23 Oct 88*

[Text] Commenting on the Aqaba tripartite meeting, PFLP Secretary General Dr George Habash said some Arab regimes are persistently seeking to make the uprising in the occupied territories deviate from its objectives and to empty it of its political contents, in addition to what Israel is carrying out in terms of striking at and oppressing the uprising through all means of oppression.

Dr George Habash placed Egypt and Jordan at the top of the list of these regimes. He accused them of futilely working to endorse the uprising in favor of Shim'on Peres in the Israeli elections and to revive the Jordanian-Palestinian Amman agreement which no longer exists.

Dr Habash affirmed that the National Unified Leadership of the Uprising will reply to these conspiracies by escalating and perpetuating the uprising and said that it and the Palestinian people in the occupied territories will not allow this or future conspiracies to be peddled.

## Algeria

### Interior Minister on Toll of 'Tragic Events'

*LD2110194888 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 21 Oct 88*

[Text] One hundred and fifty-four dead, 7 killed accidentally, some burnt to death in fires, the number of civilians injured yet to be ascertained, 5 dead and 154 injured among the security forces—this is the sad toll of the latest events that shook Algiers and some of the country's towns at the beginning of October. As to the material damage inflicted, mainly on the public sector, this reaches more than 164 million [currency not specified].

It was with deep emotion and sadness that the minister of the interior recalled these tragic events at a meeting with representatives of the national press, a meeting marked by many questions. [passage indistinct]

We must wait for the end of the inquiry taking place at the moment to know more about the events. In any case, the terribly violent character of the events surprised the security forces, who found themselves overwhelmed and threatened, all the more so because only peaceful methods of restoring order has been used until that moment, that is until the Wednesday, 6 October, the minister said. Thus, faced with an atmosphere of general insecurity and of serious threat to the country, serious measures had to be taken, such as the declaring of a state of siege [etat de siege] and the intervention of the army in accordance with the Constitution so as to restore order and insure the security of people and property.

It is now a question of doing everything necessary to have more democracy, a greater (?sense of) responsibility and openness.

### Students End Hunger Strike in Bab Ezzouar

*LD2210201788 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Text] The eight students who were on a hunger strike at the university in Bab Ezzouar, ended the strike following the release of two students and the establishment of a committee on human rights. This came in a statement issued by the Algerian League for the Defense of Human Rights.

The hunger strikers' demands included a general pardon for all prisoners, an end to the abuses against persons, an end to rush trials, and a demonstration of respect for democratic liberties.

The students pointed out that this strike drew the attention of many families, the national and foreign press, and the chairman of the Algerian League for the Defense of Human Rights, Mr Miloud Brahimi.

The students, who are politically aware and patriotic, categorically refused to answer the foreign journalists' questions, which were aimed at harming the reputation, unity, and sovereignty of Algeria.

The students pointed out that during their strike they refused to answer the biased questions through which the foreign journalists attempted to harm the sovereignty and unity of Algeria. They added that they received visits from many journalists from the national press and the chairman of the Algerian League for the Defense of Human Rights.

## Egypt

### 'Arafat Arrives for Talks With Mubarak

*NC2210060588 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Text] PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Cairo early this morning for consultations with President Husni Mubarak on the developments in the Palestinian issue and ways of consolidating efforts to find a just solution to the issue. 'Arafat was received on arrival by his political adviser, Hani al-Hasan, PLO representative in Cairo Sa'id Kamal, and Fatah representative Zuhdi al-Qidrah.

### Mubarak, 'Arafat Leave for Tripartite Summit

*NC2210081188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0800 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Text] Cairo, 22 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak left Cairo for Amman this morning for a visit to Jordan. President Mubarak is accompanied by Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, who had arrived in Cairo early this morning. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, also is accompanying Mubarak on this trip.

### 'Abd al-Majid Comments on Summit Talks

*NC2210180988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1735 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Text] Amman, 22 Oct (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has said that the meeting among President Husni Mubarak, Jordanian King Husayn, and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat was cordial and that the three leaders reviewed the situation and exchanged views. He added that a spirit of understanding prevailed in these talks. He stressed that President Mubarak has always called for Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation, understanding, and coordination. He said that this historic meeting embodies this concept and is an important element in action toward peace.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid stressed that the effects of this historic meeting will be beneficial and important for peace efforts and for finding a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian problem. He added that every sincere

Arab appreciates this and hopes the meeting's expectations are fulfilled. He noted the three delegations were meeting while the three leaders were holding their tripartite talks. He added that the political discussions will end tonight.

Dr Mamduh al-Biltaji, head of the Public Information Authority, said the Egyptian-Jordanian-Palestinian summit was held in an atmopshere of frankness and clarity.

MENA has learned that the principal subject of discussions at the first session this morning was the importance of and the need for Jordanian-Palestinian coordination, as this is the cornerstone for any peaceful, comprehensive, and just settlement.

The second closed round of the Egyptian-Jordanian-Palestinian talks among the three leaders began this evening. They will be discussing the remaining issues.

### Al-Baz on Tripartite Talks

*NC2210195788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1850 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Text] Aqaba, 22 Oct (MENA)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry and head of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has stated that today's tripartite Egyptian-Jordanian-Palestinian meeting in Aqaba is one of the most important events in the Arab arena in the past few years. He added that the meeting underlines the fact that Egypt has been and continues to be at the heart of Arab events, and that Egypt is shouldering many hardships in its positions because it is undertaking its pan-Arab responsibility, which is an indispensible duty even in terms of Egypt's strategic interest.

Dr al-Baz said that Egypt was not, in the past few years, in a position that would allow it to play the role it is exercising today with much effectiveness. He added that it is clear that there was much agreement on views and ideas during the talks held today and that there was a mutual desire to find a common background for the Arab stand.

Dr al-Baz further said that the notion of confederation was discussed from a positive angle and that the issue of disengagement [between Jordan and the West Bank] was not discussed as the talks revolved around exploiting the measures taken so as to serve the Arab stand in the peace talks.

In his statements to correspondents in Aqaba tonight, Dr al-Baz said that the concept agreed on was that Jordanian-Palestinian coordination should be direct while Egypt will continue to offer its views and efforts, but will not act as a mediator, because the aim is to achieve as much as possible for the Arab position.

Dr al-Baz also noted that the recent statements by King Husayn stemmed from his view of the situation in Israel and of the common interest in activating the peace process. The statements were made before the current tripartite meeting and were not brought up in this meeting. He explained there is parallel thinking and a feeling that we are moving with balanced and not conflicting or crossing steps.

Speaking about the coming Israeli elections, Dr al-Baz said: We want the Israeli voter, whether he is a Jew or an Arab, to understand when he goes to the ballot box that the issue of peace is the primary one. This voter should also know that there is an Arab party willing to negotiate and that the Arab alternative is present and available. He added that the Israeli voter is now shouldering his responsibilities if he wants peace and that the Arab side is ready.

As for the Americans, Dr al-Baz said there are four positive signs. The first is the U.S. Administration's repeated references to the Palestinian people's political rights, while in the past they spoke only of improving living conditions.

The second is the current disputes within the American Jewish community on the right of the Jewish pressure groups to obtain support from all the American Jews. (IPAC), one of the Jewish organizations, was recently attacked there.

The third, Al-Baz added, is the U.S. defense secretary's statement before the American Arab Council, in which he said the Israeli lobby, which works for Israel, sometimes damages U.S. interests.

The fourth positive sign, he continued, is that the oneupmanship between presidential candidates Bush and Dukakis on the Palestinian issue has begun to wane. Al-Baz noted that the Arab move within the climate of detente constitutes a contributing factor. However, this detente in itself is not capable of bringing about a solution. Therefore, international circumstances must be employed in our favor, he added.

### Ghali on Summit's Importance

*NC2210223388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2020 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Text] Cairo, 22 Oct (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has stressed that today's tripartite summit in Aqaba among President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, Jordan's King Husayn, and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat reflects Egyptian diplomacy's extreme interest in the Palestinian issue, which is the pivotal issue in our foreign policy.

Ghali's statement came during a meeting at the Arab League building this evening between him and members of the Egyptian committee of AAPSO to review Egyptian foreign policy. The meeting was attended by a large number of politicians and foreign and Arab diplomats.

The minister of state for foreign affairs reviewed the outlines of Egyptian foreign policy, particularly that related to Africa, the Nonaligned Movement, and Egyptian-Arab relations. Dr Ghali said that there can be no solution for the Middle East problem without the agreement of the two superpowers. He noted that this can only be achieved through an international conference in which all the parties will take part in order to fulfill the Palestinian people's legitimate aims and to allow them the right of self-determination and the establishment of their state.

Dr Ghali said that Egyptian diplomacy is seeking to arouse international interest in the Palestinian issue and to make it the top priority in the international political arena. He noted that President Mubarak's recent European tour fell within this framework and aimed at making Europe play a more positive role in the peace process; in particular to convince the United States to pressure Israel not to impede peaceful settlement efforts. He stressed that there can be no peace in the Middle East except through a peaceful and just settlement of the Palestinian problem based on the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

Regarding the situation in Lebanon, Dr Ghali revealed that Egypt is making quiet contacts with the various Lebanese parties and leaders with the aim of overcoming the present crisis and encouraging national reconciliation. He stressed Egypt's rejection of any attempt to partition Lebanon and of foreign presence on its soil. He stressed that the Israeli, Syrian, and Iranian presence on Lebanese territory is complicating the opportunities for reaching national reconciliation among the Lebanese.

Dr Ghali said that Egypt welcomes a return to the Arab League and the Arab League's return to Cairo if there is a unanimous Arab stand on this return. But, if there is not such a unanimous stand, then Egypt prefers that the Arabs do not embark on marginal battles and disputes in these circumstances which require a united Arab stand to confront the fateful issues, he added.

In his dialogue with members of AAPSO's Egyptian committee and the attending experts and diplomats, Dr Ghali focused on Egyptian-African relations. He stressed that Egypt's national security in the coming years will be linked to its African relations and to the waters of the Nile, which constitute the future for the Egyptian people. He said that cooperation with African countries is one of destiny for Egypt. He also stressed the need to bolster South-South dialogue to confront the northern countries and to give an impetus to the dialogue on the problem of debts and other problems.

Dr Ghali also said that Egypt is paying a great deal of interest to the role of the nonaligned countries in the international arena. He stressed that the group must prevent a confrontation between the poor and rich countries over the issue of Third World debts, which has reached approximately $1,000 billion. He added that the solution for the debts issue must be a political one through an international conference for debtor and creditor countries. He said that Egypt is working within the group to exploit the atmosphere of international detente between the two superpowers and to ensure that this detente would not be at the expense of Third World countries.

Regarding the Tabah ruling, Dr Ghali said that implementation must be done with the will of the two sides because international courts have not the capacity to implement. He added: I would like to assure the Egyptian public that Israel intends to implement the ruling and that the Israelis have assured Egypt of their intention to implement the ruling of the international tribunal.

## Mubarak Returns From Aqaba, Comments on Talks

*NC2310214288 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Oct 88*

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and the delegation accompanying him returned to Cairo this afternoon after short visits to Jordan and Iraq. He was met by the speakers of the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council, the prime minister, the deputy prime ministers, and the ministers.

Upon his arrival President Mubarak made the following statement:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Israeli sources, specifically Likud bloc circles, have alleged that the tripartite meeting in Aqaba and the meeting between King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat were arranged to render support for Shim'on Peres and the Israeli Labor Party in the Israeli election. What is your comment on this?

[Mubarak] Unfortunately, I find people in Israel and Syria who say the same thing. This is sad. We are not working for anyone. We are working for peace, a just peace in the region. People can interpret the meeting that I and Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] had with His Majesty King Husayn any way they like. Is there anything wrong with reconciliation? Is there anything wrong with good relations? Is there anything wrong with brotherhood and joint cooperation to solve our issues? Is there anything wrong with a correct Arab atmosphere so that we may win the respect of the world?

If, regrettably, the Likud people are making these claims, they are free to do so. Let them think what they like. We back any forces in Israel that support peace, regardless of who they are. We back anyone who supports peace, be he a member of the Labor Party or a member of the Likud. It is up to the Israeli people to elect their representatives. I never interfere in their internal affairs.

Regrettably, Syria is saying the same things. This means Syria does not want a good atmosphere and good relations among the Arab brothers. I extended my hand to the Syrian president in Kuwait. I did not want anything from him. Neither I nor Egypt was after any private interest. He was not going to give us anything, but I wanted a good atmosphere among the Arab brothers so that we could arrive at the best method for coperation and find common ground between us and him and the rest of the Arabs.

[Correspondent] What is the current situation in light of Jordan's severance of legal and administrative ties with the West Bank and this tripartite summit meeting?

[Mubarak] The PLO used to say that it is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. His Majesty King Husayn told the PLO: Go and work. The West Bank is at your disposal.

King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat sat and discussed these matters in an excellent and cordial atmosphere. They held several sessions. We did not see any conflict of interests. King Husayn said: We hope we will solve the issue. I will help in the peace efforts. We will continue the peace process. The Palestinians must obtain their rights. I do not speak on behalf of the Palestinians at all.

I can say that they did not disagree. There is a common desire to arrive at the goal of recovering the land and establishing a just peace in the region.

[Correspondent] Was the idea of a confederation discussed during the meeting?

[Mubarak] They are in agreement on this. Abu 'Ammar said that he supports a confederation with Jordan.

[Correspondent] What are the main results of these important meetings?

[Mubarak] I can say that whenever the Arab atmosphere is calm, whenever there is an atmosphere of love and brotherhood, whenever there is an atmosphere of cooperation, and whenever the atmosphere in the Arab world is clear and not full of clouds, I believe that the Arabs can steer the ship safely and can win the respect of the whole world.

[Correspondent] did anything new come out of the Egyptian-Iraqi meeting?

[Mubarak] The Egyptian-Iraqi meeting, or rather the Iraqi-Egyptian meeting, was excellent. There was excellent understanding. The purpose of the visit was merely to exchange views on certain issues. [end recording]

## Mubarak Interviewed on Tabah, Other Issues

*TA2210082288 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 21 Oct 88, pp 7, 22*

["Exclusive" interview with President Husni Mubarak by Mira Avrekh, special correspondent in Cairo, conducted "this week"]

[Text] [Avrekh] Did not King Husayn's disengagement from the territories cause difficulties in pursuing the peace process?

[Mubarak] Husayn is the foundation stone of the peace process. He is the most important head of state among the partners for the talks. We have continuously called for coordination between Husayn and the Palestinians. Whatever else happens, they must maintain a coordination link with Husayn! I said so to PLO leader 'Arafat. Each time I meet him, I tell him emphatically that it is vital for him to coordinate his activities with Husayn. In this way, I have sought to ease the progress of the peace process. The more often people meet, the easier it is to overcome problems. The main thing is to meet and talk.

[Avrekh] And how do you see your role in the process?

[Mubarak] Egypt's role is to bring peace to the region. As part of that task, we would like to help the Palestinians achieve a comprehensive settlement.

[Avrekh] What about the call to throw us into the sea?

[Mubarak] Nowadays, no one says such things. Not one state! Look, all the Arabs wish to solve their problems, and that will be possible only when our region attains peace. Believe me, they are sick and tired of it! They all want peace now. We are all sick and tired of wars, bloodshed, and killing. That is why our main concern is that peace reigns in the area, and that is why we must strive for a comprehensive settlement. By the way, peace in the Middle East will benefit peace throughout the world.

[Avrekh] You have spoken in favor of the international conference idea. Some Israelis are concerned about the possibility that an international conference would force a solution on Israel.

[Mubarak] I fail to understand this concern. None of the parties can be coerced into a solution. I do not believe it is possible. The Israelis need not worry. It is rather the Arabs who should worry. Look, the Jews have a large lobby in the world. In fact, it has a lobby in every country that would participate in the international conference. They can use their friends to exert pressure on the conference. If the Arabs are not concerned, why should you be?

Look, we will all sit together at the conference feeling we all want to achieve peace. After that, negotiations will begin. What we should do is simply sit down at the table.

after which we will begin direct negotiations. There is a good chance that we will succeed in progressing to a positive solution of the problem.

[Avrekh] How is this compatible with King Husayn's decision to dissociate himself from the West Bank?

[Mubarak] Husayn's decision was prompted by his relations with the Palestinians and their reneging on the agreement they had made with him. Believe me, we, the Egyptians, have worked hard to effect an agreement between Jordan and the Palestinians. We talked to them about the need to form a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, which is necessary if we are to arrive at an international conference. This is the reason King Husayn did what he did. The man is for peace! I have never heard him speak against the international conference.

[Avrekh] People in Israel are saying that since Husayn has withdrawn, Peres has no partner.

[Mubarak] But he does. It is true that in the past there was a problem with the composition of the delegation, but we have reached an agreement on that issue. I think this is the best answer for Peres, that he does have a partner for negotiations in the person of Husayn. I can tell you that the king would be ready to go to an international conference! And believe me, after Peres declared his readiness for an international conference in Alexandria, the man (Husayn) was very pleased.

[Avrekh] What is your opinion of a solution in the style of Camp David?

[Mubarak] The Camp David accords have been in deep freeze, because changes occurred in the overall picture. When we referred to Camp David, we meant a comprehensive solution of the Palestinian problem. You, however, altered the spirit of Camp David. You do not speak of the land, only of people. Therefore, let us forget that for the moment. Camp David is no longer relevant. Let us now discuss the international conference.

[Avrekh] What are your conditions—the conditions of all the sides involved in the issue—for the convening of an international conference?

[Mubarak] Let us go there and hold discussions without any preconditions.

[Avrekh] You do know, however, that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir adheres to the Camp David accords.

[Mubarak] Yes. I have read about it several times, and I have had enough of it! This is the man who did not vote for Camp David at the time, and he tells me from time to time that I am the one who violates the Camp David accords! Now, all of a sudden, they are in favor of a Camp David framework. Believe me, I have nothing against Shamir, but he should be more flexible if peace is to be achieved! Let us have an international conference, sit down and talk openly and frankly. Believe me, this is the only way.

[Avrekh] Besides Egypt, who are now our partners for peace in the Arab world?

[Mubarak] All the Arabs are ready for a comprehensive settlement. All the nations of the region desire peace. I am positive Israel, too, wants peace.

[Avrekh] When you say all the Arabs, do you mean Libya, too?

(No comment.)

[Avrekh] And Iraq? I doubt that Iraq wants peace with Israel.

[Mubarak] As for Iraq, I disagree with you. No! Iraq as a state is 100 percent supportive of peace in the region. It wishes the problem to be solved! You know, sometimes the imagination of you people in Israel works overtime. Some people in your country have been heard saying that when Iraq ends the war against Iran, it will turn on Israel. I do not agree with you. Do not believe that! Never believe that. I am 100 percent sure of what I am telling you.

[Avrekh] Have you discussed this with Saddam Husayn?

[Mubarak] I know Saddam Husayn very well. I have formed an impression, and I know perfectly well how his mind works.

[Avrekh] And what about Syria? Will it join the peace process?

[Mubarak] If the issue of an international conference makes some progress, and when it is decided to sit down for talks, the Syrians will come. They know that otherwise they will be left out. They know it very well!

[Avrekh] Are you positive?

[Mubarak] You Israelis maintain contacts with the Syrians. Do not ask me for too many details. I have no objections to this; I am in favor of anything that is conducive to peace! I supported Peres' visit to Morocco 100 percent. I am always in favor of such visits. There were some other Arab states then which said that Peres' visit to Morocco can help bring peace to the region.

[Avrekh] With your permission, let us move on to another subject—Tabah.

[Mubarak] "Tafaddali!" [Arabic for 'go ahead, please'] Will you ask me or will I ask you?

[Avrekh] What is going to happen with Tabah? Will I, as an Israeli, have to go through all the formal procedures, such as acquiring a visa, and so forth?

[Mubarak] Let us be realistic. Does not an Egyptian arriving from an Arab country, for example from 'Aqaba to Tabah, require a passport? How, then, can I explain to them that they have to carry a passport, while the Israelis do not? If I waive this regulation for the Israelis, why not for the Egyptians, or any other national?

[Mubarak] And what about the visa?

[Avrekh] We have a consular agreement that entry as far as Sharm al-Shaykh is possible without a visa. Let us not make the situation more complicated than necessary! You are an Israeli, you arrive at Tabah; what you have to do is simply show a passport, without any visa or other requirements. Let us live together in full trust and goodwill, let us not make problems for each other, and let us not treat Tabah as if it were not on the Egyptian side. For your own security and for ours, anyone arriving there should have a passport. Let us not make mountains out of every molehill!

[Avrekh] The problem of Tabah preoccupies many Israelis...

[Mubarak] We should have never reached this situation of arbitration. I told your people then: "Let us not make an issue of this; let us sit down and look at maps." But your people refused. So we went to arbitration. Now that the arbitrators have decided, I say again: "Let us not make an issue of this. Let us carry out the decision as soon as possible, without complications and with complete trust! It is important because there are some who do not believe you will do what the decision stipulates."

[Avrekh] What about tourism? Are you considering a partnership with Israel?

[Mubarak] The hotel must belong to Egypt! It can be run by any company, however, such as Hilton, Sheraton, or Sonesta. In truth, we cannot do more than that. I want everything to go smoothly. I want crowds of Israeli tourists to come to Tabah. Let them come and enjoy themselves. We want to see them there!

[Avrekh] What will happen this year with respect to the Cairo trade fair? We did not participate last year. Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Majid has now asked us to take part.

[Mubarak] I have not heard about this, but if 'Abd al-Majid recommended it, then why not? There is no problem. We are neighbors; we enjoy peace and cooperation. After years of wars, we have to be very sensitive. Your karate people (the Israeli world champion karate team) are here now. It is an international encounter. Some of the Arab delegations have withdrawn from the event, but Israel is here. If any problem arises, there is always the bilateral agreement between us, and we have two governments which understand each other. We will sit down and talk.

[Avrekh] Are the reparations to the Ra's al-Burqa' victims apt to be disappointing?

[Mubarak] I cannot say. Our courts are doing their work, and we cannot interfere in a legal process.

[Avrekh] What if the court decides on an insufficient amount?

[Mubarak] You tell me: If that happened in your country, and a court determined (an amount), what could you do?

[Avrekh] I myself can do nothing. You, however, as president, can perhaps decide on a sum over and above the one decided by the court.

[Mubarak] When the court makes a decision, I will try to consider the matter. I can promise nothing until then.

[Avrekh] Why do you object to the right of Israelis to settle in every part of Greater Israel?

[Mubarak] The settlements are a mistake. They will only lead to further complications in the future. You have a very large number of Arabs. I agree with Peres that the percentage of Arabs in the total population will grow in the future. You will have to decide for yourselves what is preferable: to let the Arabs have the lands in the territories, where they can live peacefully alongside with you; or to keep the territories along with the additional number of Arabs, who because of their higher birthrate will gradually become the majority. I really agree with what Peres has been saying. Not because of Peres himself, but because I want a permanent peace! I want a permanent, viable peace, not short-term peace.

[Avrekh] It is now 10 days before our elections. Do you have a clear message to the Israeli public?

[Mubarak] I have never interfered in Israel's internal affairs. I would like, however, to see Israel live at peace with all its neighbors, including the Palestinians, Jordanians, Syrians, and other nations in the region. I have no doubt that the Israelis, too, have grown weary of wars.

## Syria's Khaddam Arrives for Talks

*LD2210115888 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1140 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Text] Tripoli, 22 Oct (JANA)—Brother 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, vice president of sisterly Syria, arrived in Tripoli this morning on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud welcomed Brother 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and the accompanying delegation at Tripoli International Airport.

In a statement to JANA Brother 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam expressed his pleasure at visiting the Great Jamahiriyah, and at meeting with his brothers. He pointed out that his visit comes within the framework of consultations regarding developments in the Arab arena and issues of common concern.

### Meets With Al-Qadhdhafi

*LD2210160888 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1530 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Text] Tripoli, 22 Oct (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution has received Brother 'Abd al Halim Khaddam, vice president of the fraternal Republic of Syria, who informed the brother leader of the situation in Lebanon.

The meeting was attended by Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud.

### Al-Qadhdhafi Meets With Nicaraguan Envoy

*LD2310141288 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 Oct 88*

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received the special envoy of the Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega.

The envoy conveyed a written message from President Ortega to the brother leader and informed him of the situation in Nicaragua and the savage American imperialist onslaught against the Nicaraguan people.

### Al-Qadhdhafi: Stop Response to Egyptian Media

*LD2310102488 Tripoli JANA in English 0804 GMT 23 Oct 88*

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tumur [Oct] 23, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—JANA has learnt that the leader of the revolution requested the People's Committees which manage and supervise the masses organs of information to stop responding to the Egyptian Government's information campaigns being waged by the Egyptian regime against the Libyan Arab People.

The request came on the occasion of the holy birthday of the prophet and in respect for this sacred event.

### Five Sudanese Ministers Arrive 22 Oct

*LD2310025888 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 0040 GMT 23 Oct 88*

[Text] A Sudanese delegation, which includes the minister of transportation, the minister of energy and mining, the minister of social affairs, the minister of labor and civil services, and the minister of religious affairs and their accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli last night for a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

A number of Sudanese ministers expressed their pleasure to JANA's correspondent at visiting the Great Jamahiriyah and stressed that this visit falls within the framework of coordination between the fraternal countries, and will serve to bolster the relations of brotherhood between the Arab people in the Great Jamahiriyah and Sudan towards more progress and cooperation within the framework of the unitary effort.

### Iran's Sheykh ol-Eslam Ends Visit, Departs

*LD2310163288 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Oct 88*

[Text] Tripoli, 23 Oct (JANA)—Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Brother Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, and the delegation accompanying him left Tripoli at noon today after a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

## Mauritania

### Decree Appoints Four New Ministers

*LD2210231188 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Text] The CMSN leadership announces the following:

According to a decree issued today, Colonel Mohamed Sidiya Ould Sidya has been appointed minister of foreign affairs and cooperation;

Mr Ahmed Ould Khmisa Ould Sitto has been appointed minister of mines and industry;

Mrs Khadija Bint Ahmed has been appointed minister in charge of women's, handicraft, and tourism affairs; and

Mr Mohamed Lemine Ould Ahmed has been appointed secretary of state in charge of combatting illiteracy and [word indistinct] education.

### Military Committee Names Permanent Secretary

*LD2410011388 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 23 Oct 88*

[Text] The CMSN chairman today announced, after deliberations by the Military Committee for National Salvation, the appointment of Major Mohamed Lemine Ould N'Diayane as CMSN permanent secretary.

## Morocco

### PLO's 'Arafat Meets With King Hassan

*LD2110212888 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 21 Oct 88*

[Text] King Hassan II, may God make him triumphant, received at the Royal Palace in Yifrin Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO, who was accompanied by Muhammad Milhim, member of the Executive Committee; Khalid al-Hasan, member of the Executive Committee;

and the PLO's representative in Rabat, Abu Marwan [Fawwaz Yasin]. The king was flanked by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed.

The PLO chairman spoke to journalists about his discussions with his majesty the king. He said:

[Begin 'Arafat recording] It is my duty, at these fateful and historic moments through which the cause of our Palestinian people is passing—especially the uprising of our Palestinian people in the occupied territory—it is my duty to come and brief his majesty the king on these developments and events taking place in Palestinian, Arab, and international arenas.

I briefed his majesty on all these subjects and events and I heard his views, especially prior to the convening of the Palestine National Council which, it has been decided, will be held on the 12th of the coming month in Algiers. God willing, the Palestinian representatives will take fateful and decisive measures to confront all these developments and to escalate the blessed uprising until the end of Israeli occupation. God willing, we will all pray in Jerusalem, the third of the holy places. [end recording]

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Dr Azzedine Laraki; Speaker of Parliament Ahmed Osman; and his majesty's advisers Ahmed Rida Guedira, Ahmed Ben Suda, and Mohamed Awad.

### 'Arafat Comments, Departs

*LD2110220888 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 21 Oct 88*

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left Fes-Sais airport this evening at the end of his visit to Morocco. As is known, during the visit he was received by His Majesty King Hassan II, may God grant him victory. Yasir 'Arafat made a statement to Rabat radio in which he said:

[Begin recording] This meeting was, as usual, an intimate and friendly meeting during which I explained to his majesty the king all the developments and events taking place in the Palestinian arena. Foremost among these is the blessed uprising of our people inside our occupied land against the usurper Zionist enemy, as well as the political developments taking place on the Palestinian, local, Arab, and international levels.

I briefed him on the entire situation and listened to his advice in this respect and his valuable views, especially since we are on the threshold of the PNC which is to be held, God willing, in the first half of next month in Algiers. With God's help, fateful and important decisions on the Palestinian cause will be taken.

As I said, I put to his majesty the king all these ideas and all these issues. His wise and pertinent views were important and I will convey them to my brothers in the Palestinian leadership and to the PNC, God willing. I also told him about the blessed uprising of our people and their determination to continue the uprising wave after wave until the end of the Israeli occupation of our Palestinian land and until we pray together, God willing, in holy Jerusalem, the first of the two qiblahs and the third holy place. [end recording]

In answer to a question on whether the PNC will announce during its next meeting in Algiers the setting up of a provisional Palestinian government, Yasir 'Arafat said:

[Begin recording] It is undoubtedly one of the issues put forward to the PNC and the PNC will make a suitable decision on this, God willing. [end recording]

The Palestinian leader was seen off by Ahmed Bensouda, his majesty's adviser; Moulay Mehdi Alaoui M'rani, governor of Fes Province, and Abu Marwan, the PLO representative in Morocco.

### Decision Made To Establish Ties With India

*LD2110142188 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 Oct 88*

[Text] A statement issued by the Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation says the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of India have agreed to establish diplomatic relations. This decision takes effect immediately.

## Sudan

### Plan To Recapture Areas in South Implemented

*JN2210091488 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0830 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Text] Dubayy, 22 Oct (WAKH)—Press sources have said that the Sudanese Army began to implement a military plan to recapture all areas under the control of the rebels in southern Sudan. The sources added that the Sudanese Army will intensify pressures on the rebels' camps and secure the entrances to all major cities in the face of the rebels' expected offensives.

The Dubayy-based AL-BAYAN today says that this step is to implement the decisive measures announced in the wake of the meeting of the Sudanese State Council and the Council of Ministers to discuss the security situation after the Sudanese Government discovered that the rebels have been trying for days to block the roads to Juba, the capital of the southern region, and to declare a government there which would be supported by some Western countries and recognized immediately by some African countries.

## Program To Airlift Food Relief Despite Threats

*JN2210071688 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Text] Rome—The World Food Program has announced that it will begin airlifting urgent food relief to southern Sudan today despite threats by rebels in the region to shoot down relief aircraft.

A spokesman for the program said the program hired a Hercules transport aircraft and will begin transporting 1,500 tonnes of corn from Entebbe in Uganda to the Sudanese city of Juba, where a large number of refugees live. He added that rebels in southern Sudan on 9 September attacked a convoy carrying food supplied by the program. The attack resulted in the death of 7 truck drivers and the destruction of 11 trucks. He explained that the huge aircraft will try to make the 90-minute flight from Entebbe to Juba two or three times a day and that it will carry 120 tonnes of corn each time.

## Al-Mahdi Discusses South, Peace Plan

*JN2310210288 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 22 Oct 88 p 16*

["First part" of interview with Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi by Shakir al-Jawhari in Khartoum—date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Jawhari] [Passage omitted] There is no doubt that the issues preoccupying the attention of Sudanese public opinion are the south and the economic issue. You have recently stated that the government has a clear peace plan to deal with the situation in the south. Could you please explain this plan?

[Al-Mahdi] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. There are many inherited problems in the south, and the current rebellion erupted during Ja'far Numayri's despotic regime. Numayri had reached the 1972 Addis Ababa agreement with the first Anya Nya Movement. He then began to implement the agreement but made mistakes that eventually led to the eruption of the current rebel movement.

Following the downfall of the Numayri regime, the transitional government began to work for a peaceful solution. The transitional prime minister wrote to the rebel movement calling for a peaceful solution. The transitional council of ministers then issued a statement explaining the steps of the peaceful solution. The elected government then came and began to draw up the framework of a peaceful solution. This framework includes a call for a national constitutional conference in charge of looking into the most important inherited issues of disagreement, which require a clear vision. There are five issues.

The first is the status of the south in relation to the rest of Sudan, and it is a special status. Will it be in the form of regional autonomy, a federal relationship, or what? This is a point stemming from the peculiarity of the situation in the south. It calls for the need to agree on the constitutional framework to absorb this peculiarity.

The second issue is that most of the southerners are non-Muslims. The educated among them are Christians, and the rest are mostly followers of local African and tribal religions. These people look forward to guaranteeing their citizenship rights in a manner that is not adversely affected by the Muslim majority's exercise of their rights. This poses the problem of reconciling or specifying the relationship between politics and religion in Sudan's society and system.

The third issue is that, although the southerners communicate among themselves mostly in Arabic, they speak non-Arabic local languages and do not feel they have any pan-Arab or cultural affiliation

The fourth issue is the feeling that the south is relatively backward in terms of development, and there is a need to agree to remove developmental differences and find a sound equation for a fair distribution of the country's wealth.

The fifth issue is that the majority of educated southerners have failed to participate sufficiently in the country's administration, executive life, and authority. Accordingly, there is need to agree to a formula for fair participation in power in a manner that makes the inhabitants of the various Sudanese regions feel that they are fairly participating in running the country's affairs.

We believe that these five issues should be dealt with by a serious conference to be attended by all Sudanese political powers. Such a conference should make relevant decisions that will eventually be constitutionally drafted by the Constituent Assembly. We believe that if such a step is taken, all problems and differences will be dealt with and resolved through understanding. This is what we mean by the presence of a clear plan to find a political solution to these problems.

Naturally, before entering such a conference, there should be preparatory measures, particularly a cease-fire agreement and other measures. These matters were clearly included in the peace initiative sent to the rebel movement in April of this year, but thus far we have not received an answer.

[Al-Jawhari] Mr Prime Minister: As far as I remember, the rebellion was renewed in 1983 for two main reasons: Introducing the September laws and dividing southern Sudan into three regions. Do you think that putting forward a peace initiative is in itself sufficient, or does the initiative contain certain practical proposals to rectify the reasons and factors that led to the renewal of the rebellion?

In your talk, you referred to the question of federation and the possibility of discussing it. Does the Sudanese Government agree to the establishment of autonomy in the south with federal relations with the north?

And through your constant contacts with John Garang, do you believe he wants settlement or separation? How do you view his real aims? What conditions does he put on his contacts with you?

[Al-Mahdi] I personally believe that the Garang movement stemmed from certain grievances, but from the beginning it mortgaged itself to foreign factors. In my assessment, the movement is still mortgaged to foreign factors, so this element will continue to be important in its policy.

Saying that the movement began as a result of the September laws is historically untrue. The movement began long before the September laws were introduced. It reached the level of rebellion in May 1983.

It is true that the partition of the south constitutes some grievances, but the truth is that the movement directly erupted after merging the Armed Forces with some southern forces being ordered to the north and refusing to go. This resulted in punishment for those forces, leading to a rebellion by the 105th Battalion in the city of Bor in 1982. Those who rebelled in 1982 to protest the transfer decision constituted the nucleus of the rebellion movement by John Garang, which was strategically contained from the beginning.

It was not like the Anya Nya 1 movement, which was governed by Sudanese circumstances. Garang's movement was immediately grabbed by the Aden alliance, which was opposing Ja'far Numayri because he formed a Sudanese-Egyptian axis with Anwar al-Sadat within the U.S. strategy. The Aden alliance was formed as an opposite axis. It immediately adopted the rebellion as a means for opposing and resisting Ja'far Numayri.

There were reasons for the rebellion movement, but the direct reason was the opposition to moving the southern forces to the north. From the very beginning, the movement entered into the strategic game and regional and international conflicts. In my opinion, dividing the south into three regions unconstitutionally and arbitrarily was one of the grievances expressed by the southerners. When the September laws were introduced, the southerners considered them yet another grievance. They were not the first reason because the intellectual movement began 1 year before the September laws were introduced. The Sudan Popular Liberation Movement and the Sudan Popular Liberation Army were formed 4 months before the September laws were introduced.

[Al-Jawhari] So, the rebellion movement did not at the beginning have political implications; it was only a personal rebellion against a transfer order?

[Al-Mahdi] No. There are many political reasons:

First: Accusing the Numayri regime of giving the south regional autonomy and depriving it of participation in the process of decisionmaking.

Second: Numayri agreed to give importance to economic development in the south but then ignored this.

Third: He carried out an arbitrary and unconstitutional division of the southern regions.

Four: A problem arose as to where an oil refinary should be built, in Kusti in the north or in Banti [as published] in the south. The Numayri government wanted it in Kusti.

Five: There was a disagreement over the boundaries of the southern regions.

These five political problems existed before the decision to merge the Armed Forces in the way invisiged by the Numayri regime was made.

[Al-Jawhari] Mr Prime Minister: Have you any good-will gestures or practical suggestions to make?

[Al-Mahdi] We maintain that fighting will bring no solution to the problem of the south. We must, therefore, convene a national constitutional conference to find a solution.

[Al-Jawhari] And what will a national constitutional conference discuss?

[Al-Mahdi] The five issues I have mentioned.

[Al-Jawhari] But the southerners will be a minority and you a majority in the conference, thus raising their apprehension. They will probably insist on an agenda agreed on beforehand.

[Al-Mahdi] We think the five points must form the conference's agenda. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jawhari] Mr Prime Minister: The Aden treaty has ceased to exist, and Libya, a signatory, has provided you with assistance against Garang. Iraq also, as I have learned, is offering aid as it did previously. There is a political dialogue between you and Ethiopia, and it is said to have made progress. What are the foreign powers obstructing this meeting? Is it only Ethiopia? Or has Kenya joined in and become politically influential on Garang?

To my knowledge, three dates have been set for a meeting with Garang, the most recent being at the end of this month. It is uncertain whether it will materialize or not, as happened with the previous two. If the previous meetings failed to materialize due to the inability of mediators to give sufficient guarantees, do you place much credence in Kuwait's ability to arrange such meetings, especially given the humanitarian assistance it offered the south?

[Al-Mahdi] We did not want a mediator in the first place. We took a positive stand toward all mediation efforts, thus perhaps sending the message to the rebel movement that we were too eager for a peaceful solution. They are saying as much. Indeed, we are truly interested in a peaceful solution for two very important reasons:

First—The rebel movement is being manipulated to advance strategies alien to the immediate goals of the movement itself. Those who are using the movement are themselves in rivalry, each out to use it to promote their own ends. In my opinion, the movement is susceptible to gross exploitation because it is fragile and lacking in maturity and development.

Second—Two important facts in the south stand out. The first is that it is an extremely backward society. Despite its agricultural, forestry, and animal resources, the south has not achieved self-sufficiency in food, medicine, or any thing elso. They are so weak and impoverished that they would have perished if food, medicine, and clothing had not been forthcoming from the north. They are, therefore, unqualified to join the kind of resistance mounted by different types of populations with social capabilities and the potential to face these circumstances. The second fact is that the south does not constitute a nation. They are diverse, scattered tribes. The Garang Movement or any other movement will bring about fissure, wars, conflicts, disputes, and tribal frictions in the south.

For these two reasons, the Garang movement is laying the south open to genocide. We are, therefore, as anxious to end the hemorrhage as to keep the movement from being exploited to further foreign interests and strategies. We think that a very large number of the movement's supporters have realized this. They wanted to rid themselves of foreign exploitation by quickly responding to the political solution. However, those using the movement have thwarted them and will not allow a response in the context of a peaceful solution unless such a reaction will fit in with their strategic objectives.

Admittedly, mediators have arranged meetings. But we have not contacted Garang or his people. We have been responsive to mediators on a number of occasions. It usually emerged that Garang could not deliver on what he had promised, and therein lies the problem. The movement has now discovered that it has fallen in the laps of foreign powers. A solution can only be found through the foreign powers manipulating the movement. [passage omitted]

## Saudi Arabia

### King Expresses Views on Hajj, Iran, OPEC

*LD2210093488 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1115 GMT 20 Oct 88*

[Excerpts] Mecca, 20 Oct (SPA)—King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, inspected the new campus at Umm al-Qura University in the Al-'Abidiyah quarter in Mecca last night.

May God support him, he also met the university teaching staff, students, and employees. Here is the text of the dialogue between him—may God safeguard him—and his sons, the students: [passage omitted]

Question: This year's hajj season was successful by any standard, thanks to God, as the pilgrims were able to perform the rites of the hajj amid unparalleled calm, security, and stability. All this was thanks to your noble directives and the mighty efforts of your wise government which pleased the hearts of the faithful everywhere in the Islamic world. The discordant voices which used to disturb the spirituality of the hajj and the security of the holy city, in contradiction to the hajj objectives and the sanctity of the holy places, have disappeared, thank God. The whole world witnessed the wisdom, vision, firmness, and steadiness demonstrated by our wisely guided government in uprooting those who stir up trouble and promote sedition.

The one who misbehaved was taught a lesson he will never forget. All the means of dialogue, reasoning, logic, patience, and tolerance had failed with him. The senior ulema board in the Kingdom issued its ruling on people who spread corruption on earth and it was approved by the custodian of the two holy mosques and indeed was implemented seveal days ago. God allots to the sultan what He has not alloted in the Koran. It was a wise decision derived from the Koran and the sunnah. Your sons the students beg you to shed more light on this wise decision by the senior ulema committee.

Answer: I would like to make it clear that that ruling stemmed from the same committee and not due to my instructions. It does not need guidance as it is level-headed and qualified. As for the government, it is there to act in the citizen's interest to implement a ruling when it is proved that there is an offense against the hajj or the interest of the homeland. [passage omitted]

I want to explain further that we suffered a lot in the years before the events in Mecca in 1987. We tried to understand those who wanted to contradict the consensus reached by the ulema and Islamic leaders all over the world. Threatening and contempt for God's sacred house and its security and the sanctity of pilgrims are prohibited matters. We also wanted to reach solutions without any fuss. But what happened has happened and we are convinced that we performed our duty through our best efforts. The fact that the 1988 hajj was peaceful and everything followed its normal course was not, in my opinion, due to the absence of the Iranian pilgrims alone.

The hajj can be peaceful and the situation natural even if the Iranian pilgrims come. The Kingdom—represented by the Council of Ministers—has announced that it welcomes pilgrims from all Islamic countries or countries where many Muslims are living and whose leaders are non-Muslims.

As for the Iranian Government choosing not to send the number of pilgrims that was decided on at the 17th conference of Islamic foreign ministes held in Amman in Sha'ban [April/May] last year—and on the basis of the quotas decided on by the conference in light of the explanation by the Kingdom on the queston of housing—the decision of the Iranian Government not to send pilgrims concerned that government and no one else.

It is known that the numbers of pilgrims have been increasing steadily. The increase is no longer confined to thousands but it rose to hundreds of thousands. From this starting point, we must therefore prepare suitable accommodations to enable the pilgrim—as I said previously—to find a place to stay so that he is comfortable during his pilgrimage.

On the 2d day of the last blessed 'Id al-Fitr I expressed regret at the absence of Iranian pilgrims during the pilgrimage rituals. It is known that the minister of pilgrimage and religious trusts received representatives of the Iranian Government who discussed several matters with him. Regrettably, their discussion was not carried out in the manner which Islam expects it to be. This does not mean that Iran is not a Muslim state. It is a Muslim state and its people are Muslim people. The difference in the implementation of methods or the difference in points of view does not mean that differences are permanent.

I would like to stress that the Kingdom can never accept that confusion is the order of the day, especially during the pilgrimage in holy Mecca and Medina. This means that if there are any problems, this would mean a breach of security for the pilgrimage. The Kingdom is responsible for security. It is its duty to stand as a barrier against anyone who wants to breach the organization of pilgrims to God's holy house.

There is nothing that is permanent. I mean here that there is nothing that stands as a barrier against these matters coming to an end and something better taking their place. To be precise, I am referring to the Iranian Government and people. Iran is a Muslim state and a neighbroing state. Iran and Saudi Arabia live in the same area and nothing separates us except the Arab Gulf, as everyone knows.

All those who have studied history or have listened to commentary on Iran will realize that it is a country with plentiful resources—with its vast area and its population which is said to number about 45 million. It also has natural resources such as oil, rivers, and agricultural lands. Therefore, it does not need to cause problems for its neighbors. Nothing lasts. No enmity and no rift lasts forever, because things must always turn out for the best.

As far as the Kingdom is concerned, we never tried, covertly or overtly, to harm a Muslim state or even a non-Muslim state; nor did we ever try to harm any Muslim or non-Muslim people or individuals.

I can say in all sincerity that since its creation in the reign of King 'Abd al-'Aziz, whom I can talk about because I know a lot about him, the Kingdom has never played a bad role in any country of the world, be it Arab, Muslim, or other. On the contrary, the Kingdom has always viewed itself as being above such things, particularly regarding a Muslim state like Iran—which I do not think needs any more territory—attempting to annex other countries. I hope that Iran does not have an expansionist goal at the expense of one of its neighboring states. In fact, we would like to see these problems end in a pleasant way, and I mean exactly what I say. We in the Kingdom do not want any rift or problems between the Kingdom and any Muslim or non-Muslim country.

God, praise be to Him, has bestowed on your country many favors; therefore, it does not need anybody. It always thanks the Creator for the many favors He has bestowed on us in this country. This is a known fact. This country and its inhabitants enjoy the most honorable thing and that is the sovereignty of the Koran and the prophet's sunna. This will continue until Judgment Day.

As far as Iran is concerned, the problems will certainly end and they will be replaced by concord, friendship, and harmony. If we simply look at the problems between the Kingdom and Iran, we will find that they are miniscule.

We have in front of us the Iran-Iraq war. This war continued until it entered its 9th year and now we see that there are serious attempts, especially from Iran and Iraq, to end these problems so that they can be replaced by concord and harmony between the two countries. Naturally, we encourage such things.

In the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia we submit to no one except Almighty God. We however, do not want to cause any problem for the Islamic nations or the states which are neighbors of the Kingdom.

Matters had developed between the Kingdom and Iran. God knows how often we tried to see those issues end amicably. Circumstances developed which prevented us from achieving this but this does not mean that we are not going to arrive at what we desire and what they desire in Iran. This is because Iran does not need to transgress against the Kingdom or seize part of Saudi territory. We also are not prepared to continue having problems with an Islamic state even though the Kingdom has never created any problem. Indeed, it was the Kingdom who had to put up with problems to a great measure.

I personally had to put up with most of the problems and deal with them myself. God knows how much I wished that there were no problems. Many things became clear in the end to the Saudi citizen, the Muslims in general, and the Iranian people in particular.

Our task is not to create problems for others. At the same time we do not allow others to interfere in our own affairs or try and create problems for a country from which the divine message originated—the honor of Holy Mecca—an honor this country is very proud to have.

We are now trying to end these problems peacefully. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, naturally, would like to see the end of these problems created against our will. We never wished for the these problems to start. We welcome any way or methods that can lead us to this end on the basis of the rules that have been laid down by God Almighty and explained to us by the messanger of God, the blessing and peace of God be upon him.

The holy city of Mecca is a place of worship. It is not a place for demonstrations, agitation, or the creation of problems. The decisions announced by the Council of Senior Ulemas—may God give them the best reward on behalf of all Muslims—were made on this basis and according to these divine rules.

The Council of Ministers also issued decisions which shed light on many matters. If there are any problems between the Kingdom and Iran, I do not believe they are so great or numerous that a war should break out between two neighboring states. Of course, we do encourage good relations between the two states so that matters will, in the end, serve both their interests. On this basis, the Kingdom does not want any problem to continue between it and Iran or between it and any other country. As for those who want to cause problems for the Kingdom, or especially in holy Mecca and holy Medina, they are a problem not only in the hands of the government, but in the hands of Muslims worldwide.

The support the Kingdom obtained came without the Kingdom's request, but it originated from the Muslim hearts of the leaders of the Islamic nation, the Islamic associations, and the Islamic peoples.

I want to conclude this part of my speech related to the problems that have taken place by expressing regret for what has happened. I also believe that any citizen regrets the occurrence of any problems in the Kingdom. If this is the Kingdom's conception, we hope that this will also be Iran's conception in the future. We hope that holy Mecca and Medina will not be the stage for demonstrations, or the emergence of persons or personalities, or incidents that violate security and stability.

The Kingdom has always been clear in expressing what it wants, and has followed words by deeds. We do not claim perfection, as perfection belongs to Almighty God, but we are attached to one thing, which is God's book and his prophet's sunnah, may God's prayers and peace be upon him. Any matter that contradicts the Koran and the sunnah, cannot be accepted at all.

What do we want from Iran? We do not want anything. What does Iran want from the Kingdom? It does not want anything. However, at the same time, we will not allow Iran or anyone else try to disturb the security of the pilgrims coming to God's holy place after the hardships and fatigue they face on their journey to this holy country.

There is no need for me to explain the errors committed by the Iranian press, television, and radio against the Kingdom. When matters had reached that limit, we had to respond in the same way, which is, I think, legitimate. We hope things will definitively end, and we will avoid matters which harm relations between any Muslim country and another Muslim country. We respect all the Muslim countries, we do not interfere in their affairs, and we do not interfere in their specific regimes. They are more aware of that, as are their peoples and governments.

However, we are fully concerned with whatever is related to this country which God has honored by making its government and people trustees of this country, at its service and especially [at the service of] Mecca and Medina.

To prove that we do not want any problems between the Kingdom and Iran, I say it publicly now before the brothers and in the presence of the minister of information that the press and radio should definitely refrain from [broadcasting] anything against Iran. Let us start behaving in this way and we hope that we will be treated in the same way. [passage omitted]

When I said that now, in the presence of the minister of information, we should start doing better, this does not mean that we are unable to express ourselves by television, radio or newspapers, but I believe that he who starts doing good, and tries to reach a better result, will never regret it. When one does a good deed and does not find a positive response, then he is excused when he defends himself however he deems appropriate. We hope we will be treated in the same way. This is what we want to reach. I hope wisdom will prevail, so that when it prevails the problems will disappear in one way or another.

As for those who attempted to harm the reputation of the Kingdom by using those who mismanaged the interests of the homeland as a bridge, God's sentence and not the state's sentence was passed on them. It is known that such matters go through three phases:

First, the court of the first instance where he [the defendant] lives. Then, there are many scholars whom we trust. They do not seek to please anyone by their decisions, and they serve no authority save that of almighty God. They had whatever opinions they had and passed whatever sentence they passed. This sentence had been refered to the court of cassation which discussed the issue in absolute freedom, since it is known that the government does not interfere in such matters.

Afterward, the supreme judiciary council debated the verdict concerning the four persons against whom God's law was carried out, and the three bodies [the first court; the court of cassation and the supreme judiciary council] upheld the verdict which was implemented by the state. Two wrongs were committed. The first was the taking of an innocent life and the second was the destruction of property which is not state property but the property of a private Saudi citizen. God's law was implemented on this basis. I reprimand the brothers in Lebanon. For as much as we make efforts for the benefit of Lebanon there is a faction of Lebanese who wanted to offend the Kingdom on the radio and in the press in one form or another; they criticized the Kingdom for applying these laws. They said that they have been applied wrongly.

I put the question to Lebanon in general. Has the Kingdom ever been at fault with Lebanon or has it ever interfered in the affairs of Lebanon except for the good of Lebanon and nothing else from time immemorial until 2 or so days ago? Efforts are still being made to bring happiness to the Lebanese people. The insult of some of our Lebanese brothers against the Kingdom in certain newspapers which they own, will not stop us from carrying out one of God's laws.

We are sorry, however, that while we have been making a good effort we are met with insults. The last of the deeds of the Kingdom had been the spending of scores of millions [currency not specified] in the distribution of medical supplies and food to the Lebanese people without discrimination. Can the state which embarks on such action be an enemy of the Lebanese people? They think the answer to this question would be: No. I like to tell those who wanted to offend the Kingdom that they ought to look at what is happening in Lebanon.

The Kingdom enforced God's law against people who acted against their homeland and who committed murder. However, we all hear how many people are being killed in Lebanon every week. Is this lawful? Can God's book or the teachings of His prophet or even the laws of Lebanon be applicable to it?

What is the crime of peaceful and innocent people who find themselves in a moment face to face with a vehicle full of explosives which explode and kill a child, an old man, or a woman? Most probably the one who caused their death had a relative living in the building.

If we were to enumerate what has been done by the Lebanese themselves, we would find the dead are counted by the scores of thousands. Does this mean that the Kingdom killed them or caused their death?

Why do people from Lebanon criticize the Kingdom because it carried out Almighty God's sentence? It is not strange to carry out God's sentence on those who misbehave. This is not the first time a legal sentence has been carried out on someone who transgressed God's limits. Certain measures were taken and a legal sentence was handed down. The government does not interfere in anything which is in the hands of specialists who have no interest in others.

I am saying that we applied what was legally passed and we implemented it. The application of God's law is a matter of pride for the Kingdom, because the Kingdom does not pass arbitrary or biased sentences out of dislike for a certain person. However, it hurts us that a Saudi citizen should harm his homeland either by murdering his brother citizen or harming a public interest, which is for the Saudi citizen's benefits in the first place.

What is happening in Lebanon? Is what is happening in Lebanon now among some Lebanese people a likeable matter? Will it benefit the Lebanese people? The answer is no.

If he who speaks against the Kingdom did that for a specific purpose, I am among those who have known Lebanon since 1951. [sentence as received] When the problems occurred in Lebanon—I did not have any direct contact personally, but our contacts since the problems started were good—many meetings took place in the Kingdom for the benefit of Lebanon, but their results were regrettably not implemented.

The Lebanese person's responsibility is great. He must consider that the situation which Lebanon is facing is among the worst and most difficult ones in the history of a nation. It is better for the Lebanese person who criticizes the Kingdom to exert efforts for his homeland so that Lebanon returns to the way it was, with a stable president, government, and people. [passage omitted]

Question: Mecca University staff and teachers thank you for your visit. They would like to hear some good news about the university complex.

Answer: [Passage omitted] After graduation from high school or the university, the homeland's sons are called on to perform military service and train in the use of weapons, so that they will be ready at any time to answer the call of the homeland. Alternatively, a graduate can train in the technical field. We are doing something about this. However, what is required is that, for next year, the largest number possible of our sons should join the Armed Forces in all its branches. [passage omitted]

After doing national service, there is no barrier to prevent him from joining a university to pursue advanced studies. I believe and visualize that after doing national service, there will be a balance with the passage of years. No one can ever predict what circumstances will be or to what extent we can advance. It is, therefore, better that we have a total of the sons of the homeland like "hundreds of thousands." This is the aim which I always seek, namely, to urge anyone to perform national service voluntarily. It is a well known fact that many countries have compulsory national service. I do not want national service to be compulsory but I want the Saudi citizen to come forward on his own initiative and do national service for his homeland. By doing this he will receive several benefits and will thus have entered a field other than the field of studies in which he specialized.

It is a known fact that the student usually starts with primary school, then he goes to preparatory school, and then secondary school, and then to the university. Thus, he is in a scholarly atmosphere and he absorbs no more than the field in which he exists. He needs this if he heads out toward another field that requires both a religious and worldly point of view to defend the faith and the homeland. After doing this, he can revert to university studies to specialize in whatever field he likes. We are in the process of providing what we must provide for our postgraduate sons. Naturally, this requires preparations regarding housing and other organizations that must precede this field.

I was very pleased when I heard from those in charge of military matters who said there is a very great influx of applications for joining various colleges whether they specialize in land, naval or air forces or technical matters.

This indicates the existence of an awakening among our sons. They have become aware of the fact that there can never be a homeland without defensive forces, although this homeland derives its strength from Almighty God. The sons of the homeland are showing an interest in this field.

This response did not exist some years ago. I know this because I was minister of education. It exists today however, and it is a proud thing to have. The son of the homeland is called upon to do national service for his homeland. In the absence of the sons of the homeland from military fields, it is very difficult to find the human forces to perform the military duties in order to defend the faith and the homeland.

It is known that there is a development and improvement in the various types of weapons. Therefore, the present system has become outdated. There were two types of weapons and they were so simple that anyone who joined military service could learn to use them in a very short period of time. What is required today is manpower that has a knowledge of civil science. This is required of the military man to enable him to achieve a level of learning and culture that will benefit him. He passes this benefit on to his homeland and he becomes a credit to the homeland.

One cannot establish a defensive force without the help of God and without the help of the sons of the homeland. So let the sons of the homeland come forth and do their duty. Now I can say only one thing: We are in dire need of the sons of the homeland in military matters so that we can build a force according to our own resources and our own need. It should, however, be a force that complements itself.

It is a known fact that military strength—from God—should be centralized. The number is not important. What is important is the centralization and the organization of new and advanced weapons—whether planes, tanks, artillery or other specific weapons. This cannot be learned by someone who is still in the early stages of education.

We hope preparations will be made for receiving the greatest number possible of our graduate sons in certain levels, and also in the universities, which, I think, cannot yet absorb any more students. [passage omitted]

Question: The international market for the production, export, and marketing of oil is experiencing a crisis. OPEC oil ministers hold several meetings every now and then. Most important in their discussions and deliberations is the attempt to agree on a production ceiling for every state according to definite regulations agreed on by all so that oil prices will not continue to fluctuate, despite the slight improvement in prices these days. However, the Saudi Council of Ministers' decision on this matter a few days ago was a warning to the world market.

Answer: In fact, this question is one of the important matters that concern the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and every citizen. I want to remind the brothers who are present and those who will listen to what I want to clarify with regard to oil, that this is a very important matter for us.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was among the first states to have founded OPEC with some brothers and some non-Arab countries. It was the first state to suffer from the decline in income. It is known that the Kingdom's production used to be 11 million barrels per day. Then it declined, one way or another, until it reached the current level, which was fixed at 4.35 million barrels per day some time ago. Despite this, the Kingdom was truly committed, and we saw the Kingdom's committment 2 and ½ years ago, when production was fixed at a certain level, and we used to know that OPEC's production used to be 33 million barrels per day, which used to be absorbed in the world at prices ranging from $26, $28, or $30.

Why has the situation turned to a collapse lately? I believe that 2 and ½ years ago, production used to be less than 30 million barrels or so, and prices were orderly: Light crude was $28 and heavy crude was $30. Suddenly, unexpected conditions emerged—we still do not know who caused them—and the price collapsed to a few dollars per barrel.

We can say that consumers tightened their belts and saved in the market place not less than 6 million barrels per day by reducing consumption in factories, restricting certain things, reducing consumption of electricity, reducing the speed of cars, and many other things. The second factor, it is said, is that there are states that have begun to produce oil. Although the quantity they used to produce ranged from 50,000 to 100,000 to 200,000 barrels, it reached the market and thus had its effect, reducing the price.

However, what had an acute influence on the market, and you know it, is what happened when the price dropped to a few dollars, to $2 or $8. The Kingdom intervened with good efforts and I contacted the leaders of many oil-producing states because they had agreed at the end of the conference in Geneva or Vienna to form two committees, one for prices and one for fact-finding.

After having studied the issue, I found that if we stayed and waited until the two committees came back with their results after 3 or 4 months, the matter would end in a great tragedy for the states which, after God, rely on oil. Among these is the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

I got in touch with a number of brothers from the Arab Gulf states and from outside the Gulf states. I told them that the issue concerned the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia just as it concerned their states. I suggested to them that they call on the committee for prices and fixing of ceilings to fix a price of not less $18 per barrel, that a specific ceiling be fixed, and that reasonable and logical quotas that could be absorbed by the market—as there is a surplus in the market now following the fall that took place 2 and ½ years ago—be allocated. The states gave their approval and the committee was held under the chairmanship of Kuwait. The committee was composed of Kuwait, Libya, and Ecuador. Naturally, they adopted the view of the Kingdom to fix the price at $18.

Since then, matters went very well—commitment to the price was there as well as commitment to the ceiling. However, regrettably and for interests which might be compelling, some states increased their production and reduced their prices for reasons that I do not think were aimed to harm their other brothers. This seems to have affected the sales of the other states and prices started falling, reaching $9 a week ago as far as the UAE and Oman are concerned, whereas the states whose prices were higher saw their prices fall to $11-12 from $16.

Why did the prices fall? It is because there is not an organized ceiling anymore and there is not an organized price. Naturally, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was harmed by this; however, we were able to say that we made our calculations because it is not possible for us to be harmed as we were for the first time prompting a loan in order to cover a deficit in the budget.

We thus tried to discuss the issue with several oil producers and said: This is of no benefit, it is better for us to produce a million barrels to be sold at $18 per barrel or more rather than to produce 2 million barrels to be sold at $10 per barrel. This is as if you have produced something that has no value.

Why is there no adherence to prices? The Kingdom is not responsible for the collapse of prices. Second, the Kingdom is a free country, and this means that it cannot always remain behind. What is the characteristic that we have in order to be the ones to decide the fate of oil, whether its price goes up or down?

We are one state among others, but after that which permits others to produce more and sell more, I believe it is our legitimate right. [sentence as received] The Kingdom tried to be moderate, it tried not to allow matters get out of hand and remain behind. But it seems that the matter has reached a comfortable state as we have heard now that they will return to the logical and reasonable ceiling, and to the logical and reasonable price, and what is more important, that they will adhere to what they agreed to. If there is adherence, there will be no problem because, as is known, oil and its derivatives, like water and food, are indispensible to mankind.

But there should be no illogical and useless independence. This is what, as the minister of oil and mineral resources told me, the GCC oil ministers concluded, and the contacts they had with other states led to the same conclusion. According to what I heard, Iran used to be in OPEC but the war perhaps dictated it to produce more and sell cheaper. Iraq was not in line with OPEC and gave reasons why it should not be in line with OPEC. But according to what is known, the two states are to fall in line with OPEC, and this gives us a good reason to expect prices to rise. Therefore, we noticed 2 or 3 days ago that prices have begun to rise in a reasonable way and in a way which heralds that they will return to their natural state.

The matter depends on the meeting that will be held very shortly in Spain. If they agree on a certain celing and on a certain price, and if all producing states adhere to them, it is natural for the price of oil to rise, because when there was order and the price of oil was not less than $18, after a year it reached about $21, because oil is needed by the industrialized and nonindustrialized states. The matter depends on OPEC countries adherence. We hope that what was told to us will be the truth, and a commitment. This is the common interest.

As for the Kingdom alone becoming a model to follow, I do not believe this is what is required of us. We are responsible for ourselves and we will go along with what there is. We will go along with whichever method is used. Thank God we are not incapable of increasing production, but it is not in our interest nor in the interest of the OPEC states to compete over increasing production. On the contrary, it is best and more appropriate to have a certain fixed ceiling at which we stop and to have a just and equitable distribution and a certain fixed price at which we stop and when the two conditions are met the oil market will certainly return to normal.

It is common knowledge that there are consumers, or rather customers, for oil. They have storage facilities in Africa, Asia, Japan, the United States, and Europe and they have huge refining capacities to allow them to sell oil. These customers are interested in creating any problem to bring the price of oil down. When their storage level drops, they buy oil from the markets and afterward they can increase its price.

These are said to be some of the reasons behind the market changes, although I have no confirmation. The important thing, however, is for the OPEC states to organize themselves within the same framework. According to what we have heard the non-OPEC states have nothing preventing them from showing solidarity with the OPEC states. It is very good if solidarity comes from the non-OPEC states and if there is no longer any problem. In this way, matters will return to normal, prices will return to normal, and the revenues will increase.

We hope all oil producing states will share this view. As for Iraq and Iran, it is clear that matters have ended, thank God, in peace and stability. Naturally there is an ebb and flow and two states which had been fighting for 9 years cannot be asked to reach an agreement very quickly. There are signs, however, that the two states want to end this problem.

## United Arab Emirates

### USSR To Launch Peace Initiative 'Soon'

*JN2210164088 Manama WAKH in English 1557 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Oct 22 (GNA)—The Soviet Union is currently undertaking a new diplomatic initiative aiming at starting a Middle East peace process and holding of an international Middle East peace conference early next year, AL-ITTIHAD newspaper reported.

The paper, quoting diplomatic sources in Washington, said that Soviet diplomats are currently conducting contacts to get more information from the concerned parties as a preliminary to Moscow's new diplomatic drive.

The sources told AL-ITTIHAD that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze will start a tour of the Middle East "soon" to hold talks with concerned parties on ways of achieving peace in the region.

The Soviet Union will float its initiative immediately after the Israeli and United States presidential elections and will concentrate on holding the international Middle East peace conference with the participation of all concerned parties, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation—PLO—the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, it said.

### British Minister of State Arrives 23 Oct

*JN2310190388 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1820 GMT 23 Oct 88*

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 23 Oct (WAKH)—William Waldegrave, British minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Abu Dhabi from Riyadh this evening on a 3-day visit to the UAE.

During the visit, the British minister will hold talks with a number of UAE officials on issues of interest to the two countries as well as bilateral relations. The British minister will also head his country's side to the 12th meeting of the UAE-British joint committee, which will begin work tomorrow morning, Monday.

The British minister of state for foreign affairs was received by Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, and a number of UAE officials.

## President, Mubarak, 'Arafat Hold Tripartite Talks

### Mubarak, 'Arafat Arrive

*NC2310085988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0848 GMT 23 Oct 88*

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Oct (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat arrived at Baghdad Airport at 1030, Cairo time. President Saddam Husayn led those who received President Mubarak and 'Arafat.

### Meetings Focus on Palestine

*JN2310124288 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1145 GMT 23 Oct 88*

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Oct (WAKH)—A tripartite meeting between Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat began in Baghdad at noon today.

Sources close to the Egyptian Embassy in Baghdad told the WAKH correspondent that the meeting is part of a new Egyptian move that seeks to crystallize an Arab stand in order to advance the peace process in the Middle East and strengthen and develop a common Arab understanding and solidarity on the Palestine question.

Yesterday, President Mubarak and 'Arafat held a series of rounds of talks with King Husayn of Jordan in the Jordanian city of Aqaba on the Palestine question and the establishment of peace in the Middle East.

This is the second visit by President Mubarak to Baghdad in less than 45 days. President Mubarak held talks with the Iraqi president on 7 September on the Arab situation and bilateral relations.

The talks between President Mubarak, 'Arafat, and President Saddam Husayn have an added significance as they are being held before the convening of the PNC session in Algiers in the middle of November. During that session, the PNC is scheduled to proclaim a Palestinian state and a Palestinian government.

The Egyptian sources said the visit to Baghdad by the Egyptian president and 'Arafat is short will last several hours.

### Participants Address Reporters

*JN2310174988 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1645 GMT 23 Oct 88*

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Oct (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has stated that any meeting among brothers to discuss any subject through fraternal interaction and brotherly relations delights the Arab nation and removes its worries.

Speaking to Egyptian reporters, the president added that he discussed with Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat here today worries that we should remove from the chest of the nation through fraternal interaction and brotherly relations among the Arabs as a whole and not among the three brothers.

Asked about a proposal by His Majesty King Husayn, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, to hold an emergency Arab summit in Baghdad, his excellency said: Baghdad is the Baghdad of Arabs and Baghdad does not need my approval to host any Arab brother. Hospitality here is not the traditional one but that of serving all Arabs, who can come to Baghdad to carry out this idea or any other idea.

President Saddam Husayn added that when an Arab summit is held to discuss any issue, it should discuss in a fraternal spirit with Brother President Husni Mubarak how we can adopt joint steps in the service of the Arab nation. What is important, however, is that when we meet, we discuss matters or an important topic on our agenda with genuineness, sincerity, and honesty. Once we do so, it does not matter whether the venue is Baghdad or any other Arab capital.

In a statement to INA, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak praised the victory Iraq has scored under President Saddam Husayn. He said: This victory is for all of us, and I congratulate the Iraqi people and President Saddam Husayn on the victory they scored.

He stressed Egypt's support for Iraq in its search for peace and said: We support Iraq, especially since it has extended a hand for peace immediately following the eruption of the war. We will continue to strongly support it as long as it is extending a hand for peace. President Mubarak added: My meeting with President Saddam Husayn comes within the framework of the sincere brotherly meetings during which we exchange views and discuss problems and the best methods of cooperation for the benefit of the Arab nation. It is absolutely not an axis against anyone. President Saddam Husayn is not a man of axes, nor am I.

The Egyptian president said that this shows that all of us are working in the same direction and that our goal is to achieve the Arab nation's progress and solidarity. I believe that such an action will satisfy every Arab citizen and will give the Arab nation strength before the world.

He also talked about his meeting in Aqaba with His Majesty King Husayn and and Yasir 'Arafat, and said that Jordanian-Palestinian coordination was necessary for us to reach a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestine question. He explained that coordination of Jordanian-Palesatinian relations is very important for us to overcome difficulties, march along the road to peace, and allow the international conference to find its way.

He added that everybody has the freedom not to abide by this ideology and logic. For our part, we are exerting every effort for the sake of peace and the dignity of the Arab citizens.

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat also made a statement to the reporters, expressing his happiness at his meeting with Presisent Saddam Husayn and President Mubarak in Baghdad. He said that it was a brotherly and genuine meeting to build strong bases for the glory and progress of the Arab nation and its victory. He added that it was no coincidence that we were in Aqaba yesterday and are in Baghdad today—Baghdad of the revolution and Arabism, whose sons have protected the eastern flank of the Arab homeland with their blood.

He added that the victory achieved by Iraq and its Army is a victory for all the Arab nation from the Gulf to the ocean. He added that this victory has promoted the Arab nation's belief in its future as well as its confidence that it will achieve victory over the enemies.

## Mubarak Departs After Talks

*JN2310162488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1555 GMT 23 Oct 88*

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Oct (INA)—Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak left Baghdad late this afternoon following a brief visit to Iraq. The president, accompanied by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, arrived in Baghdad earlier today.

President Saddam Husayn, Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat held a meeting in which the three leaders discussed developments in the Arab arena, particularly those pertaining to the Palestine question.

The Egyptian president was accorded an official sendoff headed by President Saddam Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat. Also on hand to see him off were Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information; Ahmad Husayn, director of the presidential office; Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization; and the president's secretary.

President Muhammad Husni Mubarak was accompanied by a delegation comprising Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, and Dr Usamah al-Baz, director of the president's office for political affairs.

## 'Arafat Leaves for Turkey

*JN2410150088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1315 GMT 24 Oct 88*

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Oct (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left for Turkey this morning on a working visit lasting several days. Authoritative Palestinian sources have told WAKH that 'Arafat will hold talks with Turkish leaders on the Palestinian situation and the necessary steps to hold an international conference on the Middle East issue.

'Arafat arrived in Baghdad with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak yesterday. They held talks with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn dealing with the Arab situation, particularly the Palestinian state of affairs.

## Baghdad Radio Sums Up Talks

*JN2310194388 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Oct 88*

[Text] Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Baghdad today on a short visit to the country. President leader Saddam Husayn headed those who received them. He warmly welcomed the two guests. Also present to receive them were Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister; Tariq 'Aziz deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, culture and information minister; Ahmad Husayn, head of the president's office; Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization; and the president's secretary.

President leader Saddam Husayn, Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat held a meeting to discuss developments in the Arab arena, especially those pertaining to the Palestine question.

After the conclusion of the talks, President leader Saddam Husayn gave a luncheon in their honor. After his short visit to the country, President Mubarak left Baghdad, while Yasir 'Arafat remained in Baghdad. Presisdent leader Saddam Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat headed those who saw off Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

Also present to bid farewell were Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, culture and information minister; Ahmad Husayn, head of the presidential office; Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization; and the president's secretary.

During the visit, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak was accompanied by a delegation comprising Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Dr Usamah al-Baz, director of the presidrent's office for political affairs.

## Spokesman on Release of Iranian POW's

*JN2210125188 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1152 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 22 Oct (INA)—Iraq today informed the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] of a unilateral decision to release 25 sick Iranian POW's. The Iraqi Foreign Ministry asked the head of the ICRC mission in Baghdad to take the necessary measures to repatriate those POW's to their homeland. An official spokesman for the Foreign Ministry said that Iraq has so far released, unilaterally, 645 sick Iranian POW's. [passage omitted]

The following is the full text [as received] of the Foreign Ministry spokesman's statement:

On 22 October 1988, the Foreign Ministry informed the head of the ICRC mission in Baghdad of its unilateral decision to release 25 sick Iranian POW's and asked the ICRC to take the necessary measures to repatriate them to their homeland. The spokesman noted that so far Iraq has unilaterally released 645 sick Iranian POW's.

The spokesman said that on 17 October 1988, Iraq agreed on the ICRC's request to start the comprehensive exchange of the POW's according to the Third Geneva Convention and the third paragraph of Security Council Resolution No 598. Iraq agreed on the ICRC's request not to link this humanitarian issue with the political issues in the negotiations that will take some time, affirming that this will not affect the implementation of the abovementioned resolution according to the sequence of its paragraphs.

The official spokesman noted that Iran rejected the ICRC's suggestion to immediately start the release of the POW's and insisted on linking this issue with the political issues being discussed in the negotiations.

The Iraqi Foreign Ministry official spokesman pointed out that Iran shoulders complete responsibility for delaying the release of the POW's, repatriating them to their homeland, and ending their tribulation and their families' concern. The spokesman recalled that Iran has always dealt with the issue of POW's in a political way to exploit this issue for the expansionist political purposes of the Iranian regime as confirmed by the reports of the ICRC and the UN fact-finding mission on the POW's.

Concluding his statement, the spokesman said: Through its agreement on the ICRC's request, Iraq is applying the provisions of the Geneva Convention with regard to the POW's which stipulates their repatriation to their homeland without any procrastination following the cessation of hostilities. Iraq's stand is also in harmony with the third paragraph of Security Council Resolution No 598.

Iraq's stand on this important humanitarian issue reiterates Iraq's good intention and desire to remove all obstacles to the achievement of a comprehensive and lasting peace. Meanwhile, through its rejection of the ICRC's request, Iran reiterates its tampering with and bargaining over the issue of peace and the fate of tens of thousands of Iraqis and Iranians to achieve political objectives.

## Syria Reportedly Aims To Murder PLO Figures

*JN2210181588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Text] Paris, 22 Oct (INA)—The [Paris-based weekly] AL-YAWM AL-SABI' magazine has revealed that the Syrian regime intends to carry out an assassination campaign against the PLO leaderships and the directors of its offices in foreign capitals.

In its issue to be published the day after tomorrow, Monday [24 October], the magazine reports that official European sides have informed the Syrian regime that they will not tolerate the execution of any terrorist operations in Europe and that they will impose various political and economic sanctions against Syria. They asserted that these sanctions will be taken by all EEC countries.

## Air Force Planes Attack Target in South Lebanon

*TA2410123488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 24 Oct 88*

[Text] Air Force planes attacked a terrorist target today at noon in Bayt Lahya in the eastern sector of south Lebanon. The IDF spokesman reports that the target was destroyed and that our planes returned safely. The target served the terrorists as a base for launching operations.

## Shamir, Peres Appear on Televised Election Debate

*TA2310204988 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1930 GMT 23 Oct 88*

[Debate between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, head of the Likud bloc; and Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, head of the Alignment bloc; moderated by Dan Shilon and aired within the framework of the scheduled daily election propaganda broadcasts; videotaped on 23 October in the television studios]

[Excerpts] [Shilon] Good evening Mr Peres, good evening Mr Shamir, and good evening to our listeners at home. Welcome to Debate'88. [passage omitted]

We should explain to our listeners at home that the questions I will present shortly were not submitted to the candidates ahead of time. They are facing the questions here and now for the first time. The only thing that was agreed upon in advance, with the consent of the two parties, was the technical setup of this debate, specifically matters such as who will respond first, and how much time will be allocated for each answer.

Mr Yitzhaq Shamir, you promise us peace along our eastern border by way of the autonomy plan and direct negotiations with King Husayn. Last night you repeated this formula in the Likud's election propaganda broadcast. How do you resolve the conflict between such a promise and statements made only 2 days ago by King Husayn on the U.S. ABC-TV network that if Mr Shamir wins the elections, this will be a catastrophe?

[Shamir] I regret these remarks very much. My peace plan, our peace plan, expresses the thoughts and beliefs of the people as they are today, at this moment. We have suggestions. After the public places its faith in us, I will present my proposals to the Arab leaders—Egypt, Jordan, and the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el—and offer our way. I believe that the road to peace is the road that we have already tried and which yielded good results: the way of the Camp David agreements. President Mubarak said some time ago that he regrets that the negotiations on the implementation of autonomy were terminated at the time. I say: Anyone can make a mistake; the negotiations did not stop due to any fault of ours. Let us resume them! I am convinced that once we sit down for those negotiations, and once it is clear to Husayn that the international conference is not an option—leaving only the option of direct negotiations—he will come to direct negotiations, and the other elements will follow him.

[Shilon] With your permission, let us augment your statements. You said that the road already taken should also be the one we pursue now. Let me remind you, sir, that Menahem Begin was only able to make peace with Anwar al-Sadat after conceding virtually all the territories and even uprooting settlements. In return for real peace along our eastern border, and I emphasize that it should be real peace, will you, Mr Shamir, agree to return territories—though not all of them, perhaps not even a major part of them, but only a centimeter or two, anything at all?

[Shamir] Mr Begin returned territories in the Sinai, but the Sinai was never part of Eretz Yisra'el. The situation therefore is completely different.

The course outlined in Camp David calls for a two-phased implementation of the agreement: First, interim arrangements and the autonomy—and negotiations should be conducted on that. Second, after a few years of autonomy, negotiations without preconditions on the permanent arrangements over which an agreement that will be acceptable to all the parties should be reached. This means that it should also be acceptable to us.

The fate of these areas of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza should be determined in negotiations. We will join such negotiations.

[Shilon] Mr Peres, you promise us a historic chance for peace along our eastern border; peace with Jordan and the Palestinians. You are also telling the Palestinians, as we hear, that if they end the riots in the territories, elections will be held in the territories in approximately 6 months. It is very easy to guess who will win those elections. In 1976—when you and your party headed the government [as heard]—you permitted elections in Judaea and Samaria. The result of those elections, as will be recalled, was that approximately 78 percent of those elected were people identified with the PLO. Mr Peres, will the political process you are suggesting not ultimately force us to negotiate with the PLO?

[Peres] Our plan has an opening line, detailing how to launch the negotiations. Negotiations can be launched either by way of an international conference without giving up the territories in advance, or by giving up all the territories in advance, in which case there will be no need for an international conference. The situation right now is that Jordan agrees to join an international conference devoid of coercive powers. Mr Begin also accepted such a conference. The negotiations with Egypt also began through such a conference. The first interim agreement with Egypt was signed as a result of an international conference. The interim agreement with Syria, which holds to this date, also followed an international conference. Certainly the Palestinians should be given representation.

Now, Dan, the problem is that while we do not censor the thoughts of the Palestinians, we do, however, ask whether or not he is bearing arms. We will not sit down with terrorists or the PLO.

The second issue is that there is a UN resolution, Resolution 242, which does not call for an Israeli concession of all the territories.

I see a problem with Mr Shamir's positions because he speaks of an autonomy. But an autonomy is merely a verbal blanket. I would suggest that Mr Shamir review the Likud's platform, which the Arabs also read. It mentions the right to impose sovereignty over Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza and says that it should be realized. But who will join such negotiations?

The problem, however, is not merely such negotiations. The problem is whether we will forfeit the Jewish majority of Israel. It is our problem, not just the Arabs' problem.

[Shilon] With your permission, let me add a complementary question. According to your theory, Mr Peres, you will already be making concessions at the start of the political process. The prevailing practice is that the opening position of all negotiations is never the same as the final position. In the end, may you not have to give up far more than you are now offering?

[Peres] Good question. Tell me, who besides the Likud is enamored of Gaza? Do you know of anyone who loves Gaza? The only ones in love with Gaza are the Likud members. Is Gaza a piece of land or people? Is Gaza an asset or a liability, a yoke? Do you call liberation from a yoke a concession? What are you saying?

I say that an addition of 1.7 million Arabs, against their will, constitutes a burden on us. What, actually, is the idea of the State of Israel if not a state with a Jewish majority? How can you guarantee security in Israel without enjoying a massive Jewish majority?

Thus, I am giving up nothing. Our border will be the Jordan River, not Kefar Sava or all the stories spread by the Likud which have no foundation in reality. Our defense will begin with the Jordan River, where the IDF will be deployed and where it, together with the settlements, will secure the safety of the whole country.

[Shilon] Mr Peres and Mr Shamir, with your permission the next question will also deal with the political issue. Mr Peres, your joint interview with King Husayn Friday night on ABC is seen by the Likud as a blatant intervention via you in Israel's election campaign. The ABC people say the interview was cooked up by your men, and your people replied by comparing this interview to that given by Menahem Begin and Anwar al-Sadat on CBS on the eve of Mr Al-Sadat's arrival in Israel. Mr Peres, should such a comparison be made? Do you have any verified information that King Husayn is packing his bags and is leaving Amman for Jerusalem, with or without a transit stop in Aqaba?

[Peres] I ask you, is it a sin or an achievement to co-opt an Arab country for the sake of peace? I wish we could co-opt all the Arab countries for peace, with or without Ted Koppel. What is the issue here? Of course the election campaign is about, among other things, whether we have or do not have a partner. I know we do not agree with King Husayn on everything. We agree on how to begin negotiations. I say that if only all the compliments the Likud gave me were true. If we could get the entire Arab world to play according to the Alignment's tune it would be excellent. Negotiations would then really be possible. There is, of course, a lot of exaggeration in that, as I see many difficulties.

I want to tell you something: I do not tell the nation that there will be peace tomorrow or that there will be an immediate peace. I am also not prepared to pay just any price. What I am saying is that if you will give me a chance, we will be able to begin negotiations. The entire Middle East picture will change. We will not just talk, make war, and continue the arms race. We will be able to devote ourselves to our basic needs—the economy, education, health, and assuring jobs for the young generation. Thus, for the first time in 40 years there is an excellent opportunity that a Jordanian monarch, someone who knows my positions—that I am not prepared to yield all the territories, that I insist on a united Jerusalem, that I insist on the Jordan River, that I am not prepared that the PLO as a terrorist organization join negotiations—nevertheless gets up and says: Yes, I am ready. This is a very serious matter.

[Shilon] Mr Peres, nevertheless I would like to return to the Aqaba meeting. We saw it on television last night. We also saw King Husayn in Yasir 'Arafat's company in order to prepare, as was reported from there, a joint delegation for negotiations, and to plan what he calls a joint confederation between Jordan and an independent Palestinian state. Is there not a contradiction between this, and what you are saying and the optimism you show over your political plan?

[Peres] I am not a partner to negotiations between 'Arafat and King Husayn, and I do not have any such plan. I know Husayn's positions. I am sure he will not withdraw from them. His positions are the following: First, whoever wants to join negotiations has to announce that he opposes terrorism and stops terror. A terrorist organization cannot join. Second, Husayn says UN resolutions 242 and 338 are the basis. Even under a severe interpretation, 242 does not call for a return to the 1967 borders. That means that Husayn also imposes conditions.

In fact, Husayn looks at 'Arafat just as we do, as a person who complicated the Palestinian issue, somebody who introduced terrorism instead of negotiations. Husayn knows that if he does not join us for peace, the Arabs will draw him into war. He does not serve us, he serves himself, just as we do not serve anyone but ourselves. We want peace with a strong IDF, which will be the true guarantee of this peace. We have the best army in the Middle East.

[Shilon] Mr Shamir, Shim'on Peres just said: Give me a chance! Is there here not, in fact, a historic opportunity, a unique and rare chance to bring King Husayn back into the picture and possibly achieve the breakthrough the Alignment has been talking about?

[Shamir] First of all, I must say that the blatant intervention in the form of the introduction of an Arab leader into the Israeli election campaign is unprecedented. I think the people should object to it most strongly. Second, the opportunity offered by an international conference as the first stage constitutes the beginning of a defeat and an Israeli submission. This was stated by none other than Mr Peres in the Knesset in 1985, when he said that an international conference will deny Israel any opportunity for negotiations and will lead it to capitulation. He was right, because all the Arabs who support an international conference know that it will rule for an Israeli withdrawal to the 1967 borders, at least, and for the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Thus, it is not a chance for peace, but the opposite. I am in favor of direct negotiations. This is the method on which Israel has always insisted. Direct negotiations will not involve any coercion. Either we will persuade the Arabs, or they will persuade us. I therefore call on them to engage in direct negotiations. No international conference will be held. Consequently, they will have no other alternative but to participate in direct negotiations.

[Shilon] But, Sir, is this realistic or practical? Does your formula not actually lead to a continued political freeze because at the moment we have no partners for direct negotiations? Can your theory not lead to even a continuation of the intifada [uprising]?

[Shamir] I say no. It was President Mubarak, none other, who said not long ago—a year ago, perhaps later—that he regrets having halted negotiations with Israel on the implementation of autonomy, noting that this was done under pressure from our Arab brethren, as he put it. So he regrets it, and now he is in favor of an international conference which is better. Yet if that alternative does not exist, they will join negotiations with us in accordance with the Camp David accords. I think that it will be in the Jordanian monarch's interest to make peace with us, that is if he truly seeks peace.

Besides, right now Husayn supports 'Arafat and the PLO. He again stated in the [ABC-TV] interview that the PLO is the sole representative of the Palestinians. At present he gives the PLO his support. Is this the opportunity and the road to peace? It is the opposite of that. [passage omitted]

[Shilon] The final question is identical for both of you. Even those who complain about the national unity government's limited achievements admit to two big achievements, curbing inflation and the withdrawal from Lebanon. The question is, in confronting our next national challenge—perhaps the biggest and perhaps most important of all, the breakthrough in the political stalemate—is there any room or chance for cooperation between you, between the Likud and the Alignment, in a joint government for another 4 years? Mr Peres, your comment please.

[Peres] I would be happy to set up a national unity government that would advance peace. Since this is the last question, I would like to say that in the final analysis this is not a confrontation between Mr Shamir and myself, this is not a private matter. You, the spectators, must decide. Last time I made a dual commitment: Stop the inflation and get out of Lebanon. We fulfilled our commitments. Now I make a commitment to two main issues: To take us out of the terrible cycle of war and enter negotiations, and to start negotiations, and not settlements as the Likud proposes, immediately after the elections. The second thing I make a commitment on is to lead the economy to growth so that we can invest more in development towns, agriculture, and education, and to create 120,000 jobs.

On the first issue, the political issue, we will start negotiations. If we reach an agreement I make a commitment to hold a referendum on it. We will not permit a Knesset member who switches from one party to another to decide whether there will or will not be peace. The entire nation—Likud members, Alignment members, all the other party members—will examine the plan. We will tell the Arabs beforehand that we will not sign before the nation approves it. Israel will no longer be divided. Israel will be economically prosperous with a wonderful army which can be relied upon, and after 40 years will move in the direction to which it aspires, the direction of negotiations. This is the most important thing in my view.

[Shilon] Mr Shamir, your answer to the same question please. I believe I do not have to remind you the question is linked to cooperation between the two of you, between your two parties, in order to find a breakthrough in the political stalemate in the coming 4 years.

[Shamir] Look, 4 years ago in a very similar circumstance I initiated and called for the establishment of a national unity government. I believed that such a government would solve a large part of our problems. Mr Peres responded immediately in the negative. He said that was not the way to do things. After the elections he agreed. This government succeeded in several issues. It would have succeeded much more if our partners in the Alignment had been loyal and kept the agreements signed when the government was set up. They were not loyal, they violated the agreement, therefore to my great regret unity was smashed.

I had a dream. National unity for me is not only a comfortable coalition, it is a national need. This time I cannot say, let us again repeat this experience. I say that I am in favor of national unity. I call on the public today to give the Likud strength so that it can set up a broad government in which all its partners will be loyal and will cooperate jointly for the national good.

[Shilon] Thank you Mr Yitzhaq Shamir. Thank you Mr Shim'on Peres. To the people at home, the 1988 debate has ended, good evening and thank you for your attention.

## Reaction to Aqaba Meeting of Arab Leaders

*TA2210200188 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Text] An initial political reaction to the Aqaba meeting [among 'Arafat, Mubarak, and Husayn]: Our correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov has learned from the Prime Minister's Office that the meeting reflects the same tendency which characterized the interview King Husayn granted to U.S. television. This tendency is an attempt to involve Arab leaders in Israel's election campaign, the Prime Minister's Office states. Sources in this office added: It should be noted that a Jordanian option does not exist today, and this meeting was intended to grant Husayn's seal of approval to a PLO option.

Also in reaction to the summit in Jordan, Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, said this evening that recent developments in the region indicate the continued existence of the Jordanian option. He said this to our political correspondent Yig'al Goren. Mr Peres said that the Jordanian option is the only real chance against the PLO option, and that a renewal of this option gives the peace process a new chance.

### 'Diplomatic Process' Emphasized

*TA2310123988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 23 Oct 88*

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Foreign Ministry circles in Jerusalem take a very positive view of the role played by President Mubarak in organizing the summit. By contrast, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office sees the summit as a plot to hand over to the PLO any territory that would be evacuated by Israel. Jack Katzenell reports:

It is very encouraging that King Husayn is prepared in principle to play a more effective role in the peace process, a Foreign Ministry source said this morning, and President Mubarak is to be praised for the role he played in organizing the Aqaba summit. The summit expressed the desire of Egypt and Jordan to push the PLO towards a political or diplomatic process, as distinct from violence, the source said. Cairo and Amman have realized that the positions adopted recently by the PLO are not acceptable to the United States and still less to Israel, and are therefore trying to bring the PLO back to some of the positions at which it hinted before the outbreak of the uprising in the territories, for example, the idea of the confederation with Jordan. [passage omitted]

### Foreign Ministry Gives Analysis

*TA2310170488 Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew 1500 GMT 23 Oct 88*

[Interview with Nimrod Novik, political adviser to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, by Dan Margalit—live]

[Text] [Margalit] Three of the Arab world's most prominent leaders: Mubarak, King Husayn, and Yasir 'Arafat met in a southern Jordanian town not far from Elat for a meeting they said was something that had been planned long before. No doubt it also has an effect on Israel's domestic politics, as well as on the general Middle East picture. The foreign minister's adviser, and a Foreign Ministry staffer, Dr Novik, is in our studios.

Nimrod Novik, as representatives of the Government of Israel as a whole, what did you in the Foreign Ministry tell Israel's embassies overseas about the meeting in Aqaba? What is its political import?

[Novik] We transmitted an analysis of the conference and its significance. We noted that Mubarak was actually making good on his commitment, and Egypt's pledge from Al-Sadat's days, to try to serve as a bridge between Israel and the Arab countries, or other Arab parties, to promote the peace process. He has shown great steadfastness and determination in that. Perhaps this is surprising because the prevailing opinion in the Arab world, and maybe in other places too, is that the PLO has grown immeasurably stronger. It is thought that 'Arafat's standing has improved vastly—possibly at Husayn's expense—thanks, from 'Arafat's standpoint, to the intifada [uprising] and the Arab summit. Yet, the same 'Arafat was nearly brought to his knees in coming to Aqaba to try to renew the dialogue with Husayn, realizing that no move would be possible without Jordan.

[Margalit] You said that Mubarak's activity is surprising. Perhaps that is not the case and he simply wants to help your boss, Shim'on Peres, get elected.

[Novik] I do not think that Mubarak's main consideration was elections in Israel, although no one is blind to the fact that elections are to be held in Israel and in the United States. I believe Washington was also featured in the back of the summiteers' minds. I think their main message was that even if most people tend to see Husayn's disengagement from the administrative management of the territories as an act of separation from the peace process, and even if people regard the rift between Husayn and the PLO as the final end of the Jordanian-Palestinian option, they still want the Israeli voter and others to make up their minds on the basis of only solid facts. The main fact they wanted to show is that although the road to the consolidation of a Jordanian-Palestinian option is neither easy, nor one that can be covered in a short time, they are nevertheless back on that road.

[Margalit] Let us turn back to the political side for a moment. Would you say that 'Arafat's coming to Aqaba signifies a surrender, that he is capitulating? Maybe it indicates changes in the PLO? As representative of the two parts of the Israeli Government, what is your opinion?

[Novik] We are aware of differences of opinion in the PLO on every topic. We know that the PLO can only pass resolutions on the basis of consensus. But if you need an across the board consensus, you cannot make serious decisions. What the PLO needs is a leader who will be firm and say: We are abandoning the path of terrorism and instead opting for the political course of action. The view in the Foreign Ministry is that this is not the case in the PLO leadership and that, as evidenced by its internal struggles, there are no signs of this happening at the moment. For example, a few minutes ago you reported that George Habash issued a scathing attack on 'Arafat for going to Amman [as heard]. We may yet be surprised, however, and the PLO may indeed decide to embark on a new road, thereby signifying a revolutionary change in its line.

[Margalit] Do you now foresee such a surprise already, during Mubarak and 'Arafat's visit to Baghdad?

[Novik] No, no, definitely not.

[Margalit] Then in the PNC meeting in 2 weeks?

[Novik] That's it. I think that the main efforts are geared to the PNC meeting in 2 weeks, if it is really held. We have seen that it has, as usual, been put off often enough. If it convenes, however, I think we can see here an attempt by Mubarak to bring together the moderate elements in the Arab world and the PLO's main supporters—whether they are Mubarak or Iraq, where they proceeded from Aqaba—to tell 'Arafat: Sir, this is your last chance. The moment of truth has come. The intifada is a year old, and the time has come to translate it either to a political move, or consider alternatives.

[Margalit] Thank you very much, Dr Novik.

### King Husayn Rejects Offer To Visit Jerusalem

*TA2310120788 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 23 Oct 88 p 1*

[Report by Ilan Kfir and Gay Bekhor]

[Excerpt] King Husayn recently rejected a request addressed to him by a personality close to Shim'on Peres to come to Jerusalem as part of a dramatic peace mission. The proposal was relayed to Husayn by a special messenger on behalf of the Israeli foreign minister.

King Husayn replied that there is no room for such an initiative on his part before negotiations between Israel and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation are launched under the aegis of an international conference. Nevertheless, he expressed readiness to be interviewed on the Nightline program alongside with Peres after receiving Peres' part of the interview for a preliminary screening.

Nimrod Novik, the vice prime minister's political adviser, was in charge of the Peres-Husayn moves, which led to the king's declaration for Peres and against Shamir. [passage omitted]

### Car Bomb Probe Continues; Suspects Detained

*TA2210195388 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Text] The security forces have managed to identify those responsible for the booby-trapped car incident near the Good Fence last Wednesday. The investigation is continuing. Our army affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky provides initial details:

The security forces are on the threshold of completely solving the booby-trapped car affair. At this stage, references are being made to a 2-member Hizballah squad. The suicide driver of the booby-trapped car, a white Toyota, was a Shi'ite youth from Beirut named 'Abdallah 'Atwa. He came to southern Lebanon for this purpose. 'Abdallah 'Atwa's family lives in one of the Shi'ite villages within the security zone. Another youth, a terrorist who arrived from northern Lebanon, was detained. It was this youth who accompanied, guided, and trained 'Abdallah in the preparation and operation of the booby-trapped car. Since Wednesday several other residents have been detained in the security zone on suspicion of collaboration with the Hizballah organization. Some of them are believed to be connected with the suicide operation.

As said earlier, the investigation is still under way. References are being made that the car probably came from southern Lebanon, while the explosives arrived from outside the security zone. The car was assembled and prepared in the south.

This evening it is clear that the Hizballah organization is behind the incident. The Air Force attacked Hizballah organization targets yesterday in the eastern sector of Lebanon, the villages of 'Ayn al-Tinah and Mashgharah. The forward command of the Hizballah organization in southern Lebanon is located in Mashgharah. It is probably from this command post, which was destroyed yesterday, that instructions and guidelines were issued regarding exploding the booby-trapped car. There is a company of Syrian soldiers in the village of Mashgharah.

It is possible to state with certainty that the Hizballah in this region operates under Syrian aegis, although no direct connection has yet been established between the Syrians and the terrorist act. The measures adopted yesterday in the Lebanese Al-Biqa' and in Beirut, such as the state of alert in the Syrian Army and the cancellation of vacations, indicate that the Syrians feared, and may still fear, an expanded IDF operation against the Hizballah organization.

### IDF Officer Dies of Wounds

*TA2210172388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Text] Captain Mordekhay Steir from Qiryat Ono, 21, who was wounded in the explosion of the booby-trapped car in the security zone 3 days ago, died of his wounds at the Rambam Hospital in Haifa today. His funeral will take place at 1500 tomorrow afternoon at the military cemetery in Petah Tiqva.

### Rabin on Probe, Security Zone

*TA2310111388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 23 Oct 88*

[Text] The defense minister says that the security zone in southern Lebanon is fulfilling its duties because the explosives used in the preparation of the car bomb were brought from the north; the instructions were also received from the outside. Only the car was purchased in the south. So far the terrorists have failed to move a car bomb through the gateways to the security zone.

Our correspondent Haviva Roger reports that at Rambam Hospital in Haifa during a visit he paid to the soldiers who were wounded in the attack, Minister Rabin refused to comment on the question of where those suspected of assisting in the preparations of the attack will be interrogated and tried; this will be in effect for as long as the investigation proceeds. He stressed, however, that we are dealing with Lebanese and a murderous attack committed on Lebanese soil, not within the boundaries of Israel.

It has been reported this morning that in south Lebanon the possibility of trying the suspects by General Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army, is being considered. If convicted, they might be executed by firing squad.

As for Hizballah mention of the two Israeli POW's, Rabin said that this is the first sign of life from them since they were kidnapped some 3 years ago.

### 20 Suspects Arrested

*TA2310121288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 23 Oct 88*

[Excerpt] Six terrorists were killed this morning in south Lebanon in a clash with South Lebanese Army [SLA] troops. At the same time, Israeli military sources have denied reports from Lebanon that SLA soldiers were among those arrested in connection with last Wednesday's car bombing in the security zone. Shlomo Berger reports:

The clash occurred at the eastern edge of the security zone near Hasbayya, when the terrorists attacked an SLA patrol with RPG [rocket propelled grenade] and machine gun fire. The SLA troops stormed the attackers, killing six of them. It is the third clash between the SLA and terrorists since the car bomb attack near Metulla last Wednesday.

The SLA and the Israeli army have now arrested 20 people suspected of assisting the suicide car bomber, identified as 'Abdallah 'Atwa. These include members of 'Atwa's family from the village of Markaba near the Israeli border, as well as residents of the village of Killa very near the site of the attack. Two of those arrested were closely involved in the operation: One of them helped to booby-trap the car and the other was 'Atwa's local guide. [passage omitted]

### IDF, SLA Seize 7 'Terrorists' in Lebanon

*TA2410113488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 24 Oct 88*

[Text] Foreign correspondents report from South Lebanon that IDF and South Lebanese Army [SLA] forces this morning apprehended seven Palestinian terrorists, among them one woman, in Kafr Killa. Last night the seven terrorists took over a house in the village and held the residents hostage. They wanted to hide there until early this morning, at which time they intended to infiltrate Israel to launch an attack. One of the residents managed to escape and reach the SLA forces.

According to the foreign correspondents, who base their information on the Voice of the South radio station, hundreds of IDF and SLA soldiers surrounded the village and helicopters flew above. Eventually the terrorists surrendered.

### Sharon on Security Strip, Unity Government

*TA2110151088 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 21 Oct 88 p 2*

[Report by David Golan and Bina Barzel]

[Text] "The security zone in the north is too narrow. Its size is the result of political considerations, the purpose of which was to show that no change has taken place since the beginning of the Lebanon war." These remarks were made last night in Tel Aviv by Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon, in an address to a forum of Officers and Academics for Security and Peace.

According to him, it is impossible to deal with Israel's security problems without retaining the Golan Heights, Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

On the issue of government coalition, Sharon yesterday shared the views of Minister Levi, who had already expressed his objection to a unity government. Talking to reporters after his address to the officers convention, Sharon said that the desirable trend would be for Shamir to be able to form a government without the Alignment, and that "this stand should be unequivocal."

## Shamir Outlines Principles of Likud Peace Plan

*TA2310161088 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 23 Oct 88 p 20*

[Likud election advertisement entitled: "The Prime Minister of Israel Presents the Peace Plan" featuring a picture of Yitzhaq Shamir directly below the headline]

[Text] The Likud's peace plan is based on an experiment that proved successful: the peace agreement with Egypt.

The Camp David accords which led to peace with Egypt paved the way to peace with our neighbors to the east. The prime minister of Israel will strive to obtain peace for Israel according to the following principles:

1. Israel, Egypt, Jordan, and the Arab inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza will negotiate the establishment of a self-administration authority [rashut minhal 'atzmi] that will be elected in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza for an interim period.

2. In those negotiations, the powers and responsibility of the self-administration authority will be set down.

3. Israel will continue to bear sole responsibility for internal and external security in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

4. These interim arrangements will be effective for a period of 5 years.

5. During the 3d year after the implementation of the autonomy, negotiations on the final status of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, and for the signing of a peace treaty, will begin.

This is the only realistic plan. Egypt and the United States are committed to it. Yet the Arabs will continue to reject it as long as they still have a glimmer of hope that Israel can be dragged into an international conference whose results will undoubtedly be a return to the 1967 lines.

If the Likud wins the election, everyone will know that no international conference will be convoked and that Israel will not withdraw to the 1967 borders.

A real chance will then be created for direct negotiations and the implementation of the autonomy plan.

Real Peace From the Standpoint of Strength.

[Signed] The Likud.

## Mine Explodes in South Lebanon; 2 Wounded

*TA2110184288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 21 Oct 88*

[Text] There were three attempted terrorist acts in southern Lebanon today. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that in one of the actions a mine exploded near the Beaufort Castle, resulting in the injury of two residents of the security zone. The mine was planted on the side of the main road leading from the Beaufort Castle to Marj 'Uyun.

## Knesset Member Claims Raid on PNC Planned

*TA2410111488 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 24 Oct 88 p 2*

[Report by Menahem Rahat]

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] Matityahu Peled of the Progressive List for Peace claims he has obtained information that "government and defense circles" are planning to foil the PNC convention with an air raid and a destructive force on the ground.

MK Peled claims that this initiative will use the experience gained during the Air Force raid in Tunisia and the elimination of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir].

## 50 Arabs Detained for Fund Raising for 'Uprising'

*TA2210130088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Text] The Arab sector has stepped up its fund-raising campaign for the uprising in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that at the same time, the publicizing of the campaign, which had accompanied its earlier stages, has been discontinued. This is apparently because of the measures taken by the authorities against the people involved in the fund-raising.

Arab public figures claim that over 50 residents of the Galilee and the Triangle were detained and interrogated during the past month on suspicion of belonging to the popular committees, which had initiated the fund-raising.

Israeli police spokesmen have emphasized that the investigation of the popular committee activists was launched after it had been learned that their activities were inspired by political solidarity with the uprising in the territories rather than by humanitarian motives. These activities constitute a violation of the law.

## Gaza Administrator on Release of Qezi'ot Detainees

*TA2210194088 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Statement by Brigadier General Arye Ramot, head of the Civilian Administration in the Gaza Strip; date, place not given—videotaped in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] First, I would like to take advantage of the occasion tomorrow of the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad to extend holiday greetings to the local population. We have adopted several measures on the occasion of this feast. First, we are releasing about 60 detainees from the Qezi'ot jail. In addition, this past week I granted about 41 family reunion requests in the Gaza Strip.

With regard to the reopening of the school year, we have recently held meetings with school students. These meetings enable us to perceive and hear problems, and try to solve them and help the population. I would like to take this opportunity to note that a request has been made in these meetings to hold additional meetings on all levels and with all population sectors. Let me take advantage of this occasion to appeal to those groups of the population that want to meet for talks on daily problems to refer their requests to the Arab Affairs Adviser's office, and their request will be handled.

## District Court Approves Al-Husayni Detention

*TA2310113588 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 23 Oct 88*

[Text] The Jerusalem District court today approved Faysal al-Husayni's administrative detention, stipulating that Al-Husayni had contacts with Fatah and that he had committed subversive acts against the security of the country and its population. Our correspondent Mikha'el Birenhack reports:

Faysal al-Husayni still has 3 more months to serve of his fourth administrative detention. The laws say that placing an East Jerusalem resident under administrative detention requires the approval of a district court president or his deputy. Justice Eliyahu No'am from Jerusalem accepted the claims presented by attorney Moshe Lador saying that Al-Husayni is a member of the Fatah organization and is considered a senior and central figure in its Jerusalem branch.

The defense forces presented the court with classified material indicating that Al-Husayni had continued his subversive acts against Israel. The previous detentions did not deter him from such acts. Therefore, the judge continued, the defense minister was fully justified in ordering the detention. He added that he does not believe Al-Husayni, who denied the allegations. Besides his legal operations, wrote the judge, he engaged in subversive acts that threaten Israel's and its people's security. The decision was authorized for publication upon a request by Avigdor Feldman, Al-Husayni's attorney.

## Arab Detainee Commits Suicide in W. Bank Jail

*TA2310130488 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 23 Oct 88 p 2*

[Text] A security detainee yesterday committed suicide in a detention facility for Judaea and Samaria. The 32-year-old detainee from the village of Si'ir in the Hebron District was found dead in his cell.

The IDF spokesman's announcement says that the detainee was found dead in his cell, and that a preliminary investigation revealed that he had committed suicide.

The spokesman's announcement did not mention the cause of death or the method of the suicide.

### Detainee's 'Suicide' Disputed

*NC2310131988 Paris AFP in English 1221 GMT 23 Oct 88*

[Excerpt] Jerusalem, Oct 23 (AFP)—[Passage omitted] In the West Bank, a Palestinian held at the Al-Zahiriyah Camp south of Hebron was found dead in his cell this week, military sources said, implying he committed suicide.

But relatives of the dead man, Ibrahim Matur, 32, disputed the "suicide" theory saying the condition of his body showed he was beaten prior to his death, Palestinian sources said.

Mr Matur had several stitches behind one ear as well as bruises on his head, a broken hand and fractures in both feet, the sources said.

Mr Matur was arrested on July 22 on charges of setting fire on March 20 to an Israeli civilian bus which mistakenly drove through his village of Sa'ir near Hebron.

The bus driver was seriously injured in the incident.

According to relatives, Mr Matur had voiced fears for his life after an altercation with an Israeli officer at the camp.

He is the third Palestinian found dead in his cell since a Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories began last December.

## Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

### 3 Wounded by Plastic Bullets

*TA2210090088 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Text] Following yesterday's disturbances, a curfew was imposed this morning on the Sabra neighborhood of Gaza and on the Al-Nusayrat refugee camp. Yesterday afternoon, three local residents were wounded by plastic bullets fired by IDF soldiers while dispersing stone throwers.

A Molotov cocktail was thrown yesterday afternoon at an IDF patrol in the Jabalyah refugee camp. No one was hurt. This was reported by our correspondent 'Ezra Yanuv.

### Incidents in Gaza, Nabulus

*TA2210201888 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Excerpt] An IDF soldier was slightly injured in the head today by a stone thrown in the market of Khan Yunus in the south of the Gaza Strip. Several stone throwers were detained. At least four residents, including a 13-year-old girl, were wounded by plastic and rubber bullets in other incidents taking place in Gaza and Samaria today. There were also stone-throwing incidents in Nabulus. Our correspondent Shlomo Arad today accompanied an IDF patrol in the casbah in Nabulus:

While the villagers in Samaria are busy picking olives and maintaining a low profile, local disturbances are continuing in Nabulus, especially in the casbah. There were several incidents of stone-throwing at IDF soldiers in the alleys of the casbah this morning. Two youths were wounded, one of them hit in the leg by a plastic bullet fired by soldiers of this patrol. Red Crescent ambulances are wandering about in the alleys, trying to locate wounded Arabs and transfer them to Arab hospitals without the army's knowledge. [passage omitted]

### Further Casualty Reports

*TA2410064788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 24 Oct 88*

[Text] This morning it was reported that two more Arab residents were wounded yesterday by IDF soldiers in the Gaza Strip. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that they were wounded during disturbances in the Al-Shati' refugee camp near Gaza.

In Rafah a local youth was slightly wounded during a riot yesterday. A Jabalyah refugee camp resident was wounded apparently by a shotgun fired by a local inhabitant.

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 24 October in a page 2 report by Dan Sagir adds: "Three youths were wounded in several incidents in the West Bank yesterday. Two were wounded in clashes between demonstrators and an IDF force in the old city of Nabulus. Arab sources report that an Arab youth, Majdi Zarrini, suffered a serious head wound in Janin and was taken by the army for medical treatment. There is no IDF confirmation of this report."]

## PRC Delegation Departs; Expected To Return

*TA2310182388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 23 Oct 88*

[Text] The PRC trade delegation has wound up its visit and left Israel. Our correspondent Dan Eshel reports that among the business proposals its members are bringing to the PRC is a joint project with Kibbutz Ma'barot for the establishment of a pharmaceutical plant in the PRC. These proposals will be considered in the next few months. The delegation members are expected back in Israel in December.

## Minister Weizman Released From Hospital

*TA2310182188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 23 Oct 88*

[Text] Minister 'Ezer Weizman was sent home this afternoon from Hadassah-'En Kerem Hospital. Our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Weizman will participate in tomorrow's Cabinet meeting, and will return to managing the Alignment's election campaign.

## King Husayn Interviewed by ABC on Peace Process

*JN2110175788 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1604 GMT 21 Oct 88*

[Interview with King Husayn by ABC's Ted Koppel; date, place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Question: Your Majesty, you know that in interviews with Your Majesty, you speak to various types of listeners. Let me ask you this question: The U.S. listener has the impression that you have completely relinquished the peace process. This is because the U.S. listener does not know all the details. What is the effect of your recent decisions on the peace process?

Answer: I would like to point out without doubt that, regarding the decision that we have made in Jordan, we believe that the only way to settle the problem is the participation of the major party to the conflict, namely the Palestinians. Israel and the other Arab parties to the conflict, including Jordan, should participate. This is because Jordan has the longest border with Israel, and it is committed to the peace process through an international conference to be attended by the UN Security Council's five permanent member states. The objective of the international conference should be the achievement of a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the region. We will not replace the Palestinians. We believe that their legitimate representatives should be a party to settling the conflict.

Question: Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says that if he is elected prime minister, he will allow the Palestinians to elect their representatives to the peace conference even if these representatives have a connection with the PLO. Do you have any comment on this?

Answer: For our part, we have responded to the demands of the Arabs and the Palestinian people's leadership regarding our recent measures. I have always said that the Palestinians should take part in settling the problem. It is obvious that we are waiting for the results of the Palestinian leadership's stand.

Question: Do you believe a connection with the PLO means membership in the PLO?

Answer: I believe that the PLO is the sole, legitimate legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and it will continue to be so.

Question: If the PLO is the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, then why should Jordan be a party to the peace process?

Answer: Because we still have a longer border with Israel than any other Arab state. We still constitute a party to the Arab-Israeli conflict, and we are still committed to the peace process.

Question: What prevents holding bilateral negotiations between Jordan and Israel to settle their differences? Would negotiations be a move toward settling the Palestinians' problem?

Answer: What achieves a just and lasting peace is a comprehensive peace settlement in the region.

Question: There are obstacles that should be removed before moving toward peace. These obstacles prevent the achievement of progress toward peace. How can these obstacles be overcome, in your view?

Answer: The way to overcome the obstacles is to hold an international conference for peace with the participation of all parties to the conflict, including the PLO, and the UN Security Council's five permanent member states.

Question: When we go back to the Israeli foreign minister's idea, which is Palestinian representation, even if persons who have a connection with the PLO were among these representatives—if we propose that these representatives are PLO members, and we know that there is no Israeli leader who would accept direct or indirect negotiations with the PLO—what is your comment on this?

Answer: I can say that there is not a Jordanian option, a Palestinian option, or an Israeli option. There is only one option, namely the option of comprehensive peace in the region. This requires the participation of the PLO in the peace process.

Question: Do you believe the PLO has any reason to change its stand?

Answer: The PLO now bears responsibility more than ever before. It is in a position that makes it assume direct responsibility for representing the Palestinian people. It is now at a stage of discussion to give suitable answers. However, we should recall that peace efforts were foiled in the past by extremists in Israel. Therefore, we believe that the Israelis themselves should make a decision to contribute to the peace march.

Question: Your Majesty is one of the most experienced politicians in the region and also one of the most experienced world leaders. Do you believe that a leadership will emerge in the occupied Arab territories, for example a leadership that does not include the PLO, which is outside the occupied territories?

Answer: I do not believe that this is possible.

Question: In your opinion, how can the obstacles hindering the peace efforts be removed?

Answer: The obstacles can be removed when Israel realizes that it must shoulder responsibilities toward itself, toward future generations, toward the entire region, and also toward world peace and not when it chooses to maintain its seizure of occupied territories, establish settlements, and perpetrate acts of oppression. When this happens, this problem can be resolved.

Question: Your Majesty, what do you want the United States to do? To enter the international conference as another partner, or not to involve itself fully in the problem until the international conference is convened?

Answer: We held a dialogue with the United States for many years. With great regret, we noticed the extent to which the U.S. stand was influenced by the stance of the extremist current in the Israeli Cabinet—the current that practically and actually aborted the chances of making headway toward the achievement of a comprehensive peace in the region. I believe that the United States has an important role to play. It is certain that it can play this role, along with the Soviet Union and the other permanent members of the UN Security Council and Israel. We hope that the United States will take a positive stand on the situation in our region—the situation that poses threats to world and regional peace.

Question: You said that the U.S. role is neither more nor less than that of any other partner to participate in the international conference. Do you thus seek to belittle the U.S. role?

Answer: The United States and the Soviet Union can do a great deal. We have been greatly encouraged by the climate currently prevailing in the world—the climate regarding the resolution of regional problems. In addition to the treaty on scrapping intermediate range missiles, the materialization of a solution to the Afghan conflict, and the termination of the Iraq-Iran war, there is no doubt that solutions are in the offing for the Cambodian and Namibian conflicts. The conflicts in our region cannot remain unresolved. They are bound to be tackled.

Question: Do you believe that there is a pressing need for initiating moves in the peace process?

Answer: I believe that the need is more pressing now than ever. The Israeli and U.S. elections will be held soon. However, the regional conflict cannot wait. There are people being killed while revolting. They are being exposed to oppression. They are asking for their human and legitimate rights on their national soil to be regained. At the same time, we cannot wait until chances for peace vanish, as this will be very dangerous to all the parties concerned in this region and perhaps to the entire world.

Question: What makes you believe that the Soviet Union is a main factor in the regional peace process?

Answer: We maintain continuous contacts with the Soviet leadership. We have also maintained continuous contacts with the United States over the years. We have witnessed the changes seen by the world regarding relations between the two superpowers. We strongly believe that the Soviet stand is very positive and realistic. Therefore, the two superpowers, as well as the other permanent members of the UN Security Council, can contribute toward reaching a settlement to the conflict in our region.

Question: When you met with the Soviet leadership and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, what did you notice about his stand on the situation in the Middle East?

Answer: Chairman Gorbachev left an excellent impression on me when I met him. My government has recently contacted the Soviet Government on various levels. We have found that the Soviet stand is close to ours—the stand that is adopted by most of the permanent members of the UN Security Council regarding what must be done to achieve progress toward peace in this region.

Question: Your Majesty, there is a possibility that the Labor Party might win the Israeli elections. However, it is also possible to see the Likud winning the elections. Our last question is the following: In your opinion, what will happen if the Likud wins these elections?

Answer: I do not want to interfere in the Israeli elections. I do not know what the Likud policy will be if it wins the elections. But if the Likud policy proves to be the very one they are talking about, it will lead to a catastrophe regarding the chances of realizing a comprehensive, durable, and just peace.

## King Husayn, Mubarak,'Arafat Hold Summit in Aqaba

### King Receives Mubarak, 'Arafat

*JN2210101988 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Text] Aqaba—His Majesty King Husayn received Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat as they arrived in Aqaba today. Also present were Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, Royal Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim, Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, and Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri.

Mubarak is accompanied by a delegation consisting of Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Usamah al-Baz, head of the president's office for political affirs and Foreign Ministry first under secretary; and Zakariyya 'Azmi, secretary general of the presidential office.

'Arafat is accompanied by a delegation consisting of Mahmud 'Abbaf and Muhammad Milhim, PLO Executive Committee members; Hani al-Hasan, 'Arafat's political adviser; and Sa'id Kamal, PNC member.

### 'Round of Talks' Begin 22 Oct

*JN2210122888 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Excerpt] Aqaba—His Majesty King Husayn held a round of talks at noon today with Egypt's President Mubarak and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat. They discussed the latest Palestinian developments.

His Majesty King Husayn gave a luncheon for His Excellency President Mubarak and Mr 'Arafat. Attending were prime minister, the Royal Court chief, the court minister, and the foreign minister, along with the Egyptian and Palestinian delegations. [passage omitted]

### 'Arafat Presents 'Four Options'

*JN2210153388 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1435 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Text] Aqaba, 22 Oct (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has stated that the Jordanian-Egyptian-Palestinian summit has been held amid important circumstances, confirming a basic fact and a joint Arab desire to realize a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the region.

In a statement here today, 'Arafat said that the meeting is aimed at coordinating Arab positions to quicken the pace toward an international conference and to affirm that the Arab conditions are conducive to participation in this conference, in which the five UN Security Council permanent members and all parties to the dispute will participate.

The Palestinian leader noted that this Egyptian-Jordanian-Palestinian meeting—the first of its kind—will render positive and effective impetus to the peace march.

'Arafat asserted that the PNC will be held in Algiers on 12 November and said: Our stand, as I have announced it in Harare, Addis Ababa, and Strasbourg, has not changed.

'Arafat said: International legitimacy is an integrated whole, and we acccept all resolutions, including Resolutions 242 and 338, and no power on earth can choose some resolutions that suit it and reject others that do not suit it.

The Palestinian leader made it clear that he will present to the PNC the following four options:

1. Proclaiming an independent state under occupation.

2. Proclaiming a state and a provisional government.

3. Establishing a provisional government.

4. Temporary international protection for the occupied territory.

Arafat said: I believe that in view of the international detente, a strong trend has emerged to defuse tension in the world's hotbeds. This has begun on every world problem except the Palestinian issue. He added: The big powers are now obliged to hasten the convocation of the international conference, hence the Soviet-French intiative and the French-Egyptian intiative to facilitate the convocation of the international conference.

Answering a question on how he will deal with Yitzhaq Shamir if the Likud bloc wins the election, 'Arafat said: I deal with the Israeli Government as an enemy government, whether it is headed by Shamir or by Peres. In any case, Shamir makes decisions and Rabin carries them out.

### Talks Focus on Peace Conference

*JN2210182888 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has resumed talks with his guests, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Yasir 'Arafat. They held a bilateral meeting [as heard] at the royal palace in the city of Aqaba today.

During the meeting, they resumed discussion of the Palestine question, including all its various regional and international dimensions, with special emphasis on the importance of an international conference for peace in the Middle East, with the participation of the UN Security Council's five permanent member states and all the parties to the conflict—a conference that has gained the support and interest of most of the world's states.

### Talks End After 4 Sessions

*JN2310060688 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 23 Oct 88*

[Excerpt] The Aqaba talks between King Husayn, President Mubarak, and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat ended late last night. After four sessions of talks and discussions the three leaders parted having reached an understanding on several issues whose framework consists of a common strategy for action and moves in the future stage.

As yet, we have received no official statement or communique on the results of this tripartite summit. However, one can deduce from some of the press statements disseminated by the news agencies that the discussions primarily dealt with the preparation of joint action to convene the international peace conference. The talks also focused on the future of relations between Jordan and the PLO and on the popular uprising in the occupied territories, not to mention the Israeli legislative elections and the U.S. presidential elections concerning their impact on the peace process in the region.

Dr Usamah al-Baz, director of President Mubarak's office, summed up the contents of these talks by saying that they dealt with the preparation of the dynamics of peace while taking into consideration the uprising in the occupied territories, the Israeli legislative elections, and the U.S. presidential elections. Dr al-Baz added that all the factors are now available for the establishment of a Palestinian state if Israel withdraws from the occupied territories, and in the future some type of relationship, such as a confederation, can be established between the Palestinian state and Jordan. [passage omitted]

### Mubarak, 'Arafat Depart 23 Oct

*JN2310083088 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 23 Oct 88*

[Excerpt] Aqaba—His Majesty King Husayn was present to bid farewell to His Excellency Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat when they left Aqaba this morning at the end of a 2-day visit to Jordan.

During the visit, His Majesty King Husayn held talks with his two guests on the Palestinian cause in all its regional and international aspects. Emphasis was placed on the importance of convening the international Middle East peace conference, which enjoys the support of most of the countries in the world, in the presence of the five UN Security Council permanent members and all the parties to the conflict.

Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, Royal Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim, Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, and Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri were also present to see off the two guests. [passage omitted]

### King Husayn Assesses Talks

*JN2310125088 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1203 GMT 23 Oct 88*

[Excerpts] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn has expressed his full satisfaction with the outcome of the talks held with His Excellency Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and PLO executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat during their latest visit to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. His majesty also voiced satisfaction with what he sensed in terms of the PLO's determination to shoulder its direct responsibilities to fulfil the aspirations of the Palestinian Arab people and regain their legitimate national rights on their national soil.

In a statement to the Jordanian news agency correspondent, his majesty described this visit as a good contribution to joint Arab action for the sake of supporting the Palestinian people in their heroic struggle to realize their legitimate national goals. His majesty said the talks stressed the importance of enhancing the special, distinguished relationship between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples.

His majesty added that during these talks he emphasized the pillars of the Jordanian stand based on considering the PLO the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people and on noting the PLO's central role in the peace march, particularly after Jordan adopted its decision that contributed to the projection of the Palestinian national identity and to the affirmation of the PLO's main role in attaining a just, comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, considering the Palestine question as the essence and core of this conflict.

His majesty also stressed Jordan's firm conviction that a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace can only be achieved by holding an international conference for peace in the Middle East under UN auspices and within the UN framework, which will be attended by the five permanent Security Council member states along with all parties to the conflict, including the PLO.

Concluding his statement, His Majesty King Husayn said he agreed with Yasir 'Arafat to continue contacts in order to coordinate stands in the service of the Palestine question and to achieve a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace. [passage omitted]

Both His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Baghdad from Aqaba this morning. Immediately upon arrival, they began talks with His Excellency Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. An official Egyptian source has said these talks aim to create a joint Arab stand which will promote the peace march in the Middle East and increase joint understanding regarding the Palestine question.

### Egypt's 'Abd al-Majid Comments

*JN2310084488 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 23 Oct 88 p 1, 17*

[By Wafa' 'Amr]

[Excerpt] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid described the meetings between His Majesty King Husayn, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat as cordial. Through these meetings, they explained their stands and exchanged opinions in a fraternal and understanding spirit.

In a statement to AL-DUSTUR, 'Abd al-Majid said that it is known that President Mubarak always calls for understanding, cooperation, and Palestinian-Jordanian coordination. He said: This historic meeting translates this concept and is considered an important element in the move toward peace.

'Abd al-Majid added that there is no doubt that the effects resulting from this meeting will be important and beneficial toward finding the just and comprehensive solution to the Palestine question.

He expressed his belief that any faithful Arab would support this meeting and that many high hopes are pinned on it to achieve all that is expected of it. He said that the three leaders held tripartite meetings. Their delegations also held meetings with each other.

The Egyptian foreign minister described the atmosphere of the talks as good and reassuring. [passage omitted]

### Official on Talks, Communique

*JN2310071688 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic*
*23 Oct 88 pp 1, 17*

[Text] Aqaba—A ranking Jordanian official has told AL-DUSTUR that the meeting between His Majesty King Husayn, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has been an excellent opportunity to exchange viewpoints on all issues, particularly with respect to Jordanian-Palestinian relations, the peace process, and the developments in the region.

He stressed that a positive atmosphere prevailed over the meeting, that the past will be left behind, and that a communique will be issued at the end of the meetings.

### Palestinian Source on Summit

*LD2310205388 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
*1702 GMT 23 Oct 88*

[Text] The Aqaba summit, which included brother leader Abu Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, Egypt President Mubarak, and Jordanian King Husayn, ended yesterday.

A responsible Palestinian source has indicated that the Aqaba summit dealt with the latest developments in the Middle East, especially the latest developments in the Palestinian issue. The summit discussed joint coordination, with a view to pushing forward the peace process in the region through an international conference on peace in the Middle East with the presence of all parties to the conflict, including the PLO, and the participation of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

The Aqaba summit also dealt with ways to cope with the situation resulting from the Jordanian decision to sever legal and administrative ties between Jordan and the occupied West Bank. Moreover, the summit discussed ways to crystalize an Arab stance that would take advantage of the Palestinian uprising and show an interest in trying to obtain the withdrawal of Zionist occupation forces and guarantee the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, which include their right to return to their land, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

## Editorials Assess Results of Aqaba Summit

### SAWT AL-SHA'B Welcomes Guests

*JN2310092288 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic*
*23 Oct 88 pp 1, 15*

[Editorial: "The Aqaba Meeting"]

[Text] Jordan participates with its leader, His Majesty King Husayn, in welcoming the two Arab guests, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. As always, Jordan believes that direct dialogue among Arab leaders is one of the most sound and exemplary methods of dealings among Arab leaders. His Majesty King Husayn has played a pioneering role in the sphere of personal diplomacy based on directly contacting his brother Arab leaders and holding a dialogue with them in service of the principle of the unity of the Arab nation and its problems and in always keeping the channels of communication among the leaders open.

Arab Egypt has a prominent status in the life of the Arab nation, in its struggle march, and in its endeavors to regain Arab rights, particularly the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate rights on their national soil. This Egyptian role acquires special importance in view of President Husni Mubarak's personality, his genuine Arab sentiments, the spirit of amity and concern with which he always tackles pan-Arab issues, and his fair appraisal of the pan-Arab role Jordan assumes toward the Palestinian cause and the modality of supporting the uprising and the Palestinian people's struggle.

By responding to the request of the brothers in the PLO command to end its administrative and legal links with the West Bank, Jordan has allowed the PLO to fully assume its responsibilities, as it and the Arab brothers had wanted. When it made this decision, Jordan affirmed that it would continue to support the Palestinian people's struggle and would remain the brother that will continue to assist the Palestinian people to stand fast on their land until a comprehensive settlement on which the Arabs and the PLO have agreed is attained.

When Jordan made this decision, it clearly stated that it would always establish its relations with the Palestinian command on sound bases that would be devoid of any doubts and that would not be affected by distrust and illusions. Every Jordanian citizen deeply realizes that the distinctive objective historical relations that exist between Jordan and Palestine must always be governed by cordiality and sincere brotherhood.

While the just cause of our Palestinian Arab people needs to be supported by all the Arab brothers, it is in dire need of support by Jordan, which stands along the longest line of confrontation and whose circumstances always dictate that it share everything with the Palestinian brothers. Jordan's steadfastness will always remain the basis of the confrontation by Palestine, its fraternal Arab people, and all the Arabs. From this premise, we once again welcome Jordan's guests.

## AL-RA'Y on 'Fraternal Meeting'

*JN2310085688 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic*
*23 Oct 88 pp 1, 16*

[Editorial: "This Is Our Credibility"]

[Text] The fraternal meeting which was held in the city of Aqaba between His Majesty King Husayn, His Excellency President Husni Mubarak, and Yasir 'Arafat embodies the pan-Arab trend to which Jordan has been committed in its dealing with Arab issues, foremost among which is the Palestine question. Likewise, this meeting enhances the Jordanian role which seeks to strengthen Arab solidarity and crystallize joint Arab action which is indispensable for activating the peace process in the region.

Hence, the talks held yesterday represent a positive step in this direction and an affirmation of Jordan's determination to continue to exert efforts to back the Palestinian people in their struggle and to support them through the materialization of an organized and strong Arab role that is capable of confronting the challenges.

At the same time, the meeting and the talks constitute a manifestation of the active role being played by His Excellency President Mubarak in the same direction. It is clear that this outcome, with its positive dimensions, will be a source of concern for the Israeli aggressors, who are neither gladdened by any action that can strengthen Arab solidarity nor pleased by any effort to activate the peace process in the region. As a matter of course, the negative Israeli reactions will have no effect whatsoever on this outcome.

Furthermore, the meeting and talks held by His Majesty King Husayn, His Excellency President Mubarak, and 'Arafat serve as a message addressed to the Palestinian strugglers in the occupied territories to the effect that Arab support for the Palestinian uprising is being strengthened day after day. The message also tells the Palestinian strugglers that the Israeli aggressors will neither have the chance to single out any Arab party nor to impose partial solutions on the region. This meaning was emphasized by the fact that the talks, which tackled all dimensions of the Palestine question, also dealt with the international conference, the convening of which has been approved by most of the world states comprising the international community. Jordan has insisted that this conference must enjoy full powers.

Jordan has always affirmed that it will remain in the forefront of the Arab states working for the sake of realizing an organized and unified Arab action in order to regain usurped rights. The developments being witnessed in the Arab arena came to express Jordan's credibility, which makes room for no option other than that of peace.

## AL-DUSTUR on 'Special Character'

*JN2310102088 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic*
*23 Oct 88 pp 1, 17*

[Editorial: "The Brothers' Meeting"]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn's meeting in Aqaba with President Husni Mubarak and Yasir 'Arafat comes as a specific step on the path of joint Arab action. This summit is an important and very positive event in the course of fraternal cooperative relations and joint coordination among the brothers.

There is no doubt that holding this tripartite summit under the current circumstances, while taking into consideration the fateful challenges it contains, gives this pan-Arab event a special importance stemming from the centrality of the role played by the parties in this important meeting and the great responsibilities placed on their shoulders toward the Palestine question and its many side issues.

This is because Jordan and Egypt are two of the countries in the Arab region most involved in the challenges formed by the continued Arab-Israeli conflict. They are also the nearest countries to Palestine and its pan-Arab cause. This gives the Aqaba summit a special character and makes its mere convening at this point in time a clear sign that those concerned with the cause have taken it upon themselves to hold the reins of successive political developments dealing with the Palestine question.

As to what concerns Jordan, this fraternal meeting is a translation of a practical initiative toward calling for Arab solidarity, strengthening the bonds of pan-Arab brotherhood, and unifying joint Arab understanding and outlook on the consecutive developments in the region. In their entirety, these points form principled and firm headlines of this country's policies and its leadership's wise stands.

As we welcome the brothers' meeting in Aqaba and as we see in it new and additional evidence of the vitality of this nation and its ability to unite and take effective action, we are fully convinced that these meetings between Husayn, Mubarak, and 'Arafat will result in achieving what is beneficial to the first pan-Arab cause. It will also give the popular Palestinian uprising, whose effectiveness is increasing with the increase of Arab unity, solidarity, closeness, and rallying round their noble pan-Arab aims, moral support.

## Islamic Jihad Threatens U.S. Hostages

*NC2110164188 Paris AFP in English 1638 GMT 21 Oct 88*

[Text] Beirut, Oct 21 (AFP)—An organization purporting to be the Islamic Jihad threatened Friday to harm American hostages being held in Lebanon in retaliation for Israeli raids against Palestinian and Shi'ite Hizbollah targets in which nine people were killed and 25 injured.

"Criminal America should know it will not escape retribution, particularly as concerns the hostages we're holding," a typed statement in Arabic signed "Islamic Jihad" and given to the daily AL-NAHAR said.

"We'll teach anybody who dares to undermine the pride and dignity of our people and our muhahidin (Islamic fighters) a lesson," the statement said.

The communique, which was not accompanied by a photo of hostages—the organization's trademark—also accused the United States of "having backed the Israeli military response."

The group is thought to hold Terry Anderson, the Middle East director of the ASSOCIATED PRESS news agency and Thomas Sutherland, the dean of the agronomics faculty at the American University of Beirut.

### 'Foolish Acts' To Be Punished

*NC2110171388 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1703 GMT 21 Oct 88*

[Text] The first reaction to the Israeli raids came tonight when the Islamic Jihad organization threatened to harm two U.S. hostages held by the organization in retaliation for the Israeli raids. A statement by the organization delivered to news agencies in West Beirut says that the perpetration of such foolish acts cannot go unpunished.

### Statement Accompanied by Photo

*NC2110174288 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1721 GMT 21 Oct 88*

[Text] The Islamic Jihad organization has threatened to harm the U.S. hostages in Lebanon in retaliation for today's Israeli raids. A statement typed in Arabic and carrying the signature of the Islamic Jihad said: Criminal America should know that it will not get away with this deed. This is particularly true as far as the fate of the hostages is concerned, the statement added. The statement accused the United States of giving its approval to the occupying forces to bombard the Lebanese and Palestinian kinfolk in the western Al-Biqa' and Sidon areas.

The statement, which was accompanied by a picture of U.S. hostage Terry Anderson, hailed the attack which was carried out 2 days ago by pro-Iranian fundamentalists. The statement said: Our response will be a lesson to anyone who wants to strike at the dignity and pride of our people.

### Further on Threat

*NC2110181488 Paris AFP in English 1757 GMT 21 Oct 88*

[Text] Beirut, Oct 21 (AFP)—The Islamic Jihad organisation threatened Friday to harm its two U.S. captives in retaliation for the deadly Israeli air strikes earlier the same day against Shi'ite and Palestinian targets in south Lebanon.

"Criminal America should know it will not escape retribution, particularly as concerns the hostages we're holding," the shadowy organisation said in a communique delivered to a Western news agency here.

"We'll teach anybody who dares to undermine the pride and dignity of our people and our mujahidin (Islamic fighters) a lesson," it said.

The typed statement was accompanied by a photograph of U.S. hostage Terry Anderson, 40, the Middle East director of the Associated Press news agency who was kidnapped in mostly Moslem West Beirut in March 1985.

The same statement, sent earlier to the AL-NAHAR newspaper, did not include a photograph.

Islamic Jihad accused Washington of having given the go-ahead for the Israeli raids, which left at least nine dead and 25 injured at a Palestinian arms depot and a Shi'ite clinic.

The strikes came 48 hours after seven Israeli soldiers were killed in a suicide car-bomb attack in south Lebanon claimed by the Islamic Resistance, military wing of the Shi'ite fundamentalist Hizballah group.

Islamic Jihad, which praised the suicide attack in its communique, is believed to be holding a second U.S. hostage, Thomas Sutherland, 50. The dean of the Agronomics faculty at the American University of Beirut was seized in West Beirut in June 1985.

The group has since 1984 claimed responsibility for the kidnapping in Lebanon of 12 Westerners. It has freed three Frenchmen and four Americans, but another three died in captivity: The Frenchman Michel Seurat, U.S. diplomat William Buckley and the British teacher Denis Hill.

The organization was also behind the suicide bombings on October 23, 1983, against the headquarters of the U.S. Marines in Lebanon at the time, killing 240 people, and a French army post, where another 53 people were killed.

### Fadlallah on Hostage Issue

*NC2210060188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Text] Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah [Hizballah's spiritual guide] has ruled out any imminent solution of the issue of the foreign hostages in Lebanon. He attributed this to the possibility of political complications. He announced, however, that he had promised Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie to help bring about the release of British hostage Terry Waite. He disclosed that he had exchanged letters with Runcie on this issue.

Commenting on speculations about Lebanon's partition, he declared that this is a mere attempt to cause panic, indicating that current activity in the country is moving in the direction of unity, not partition.

### Al-Qadhdhafi Recognizes 'Awn as Prime Minister

*NC2110195888 Paris AFP in English 1948 GMT 21 Oct 88*

[Text] Beirut, Oct 21 (AFP)—Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has recognized General Michel 'Awn, the head of a Christian military administration, as prime minister of Lebanon, a pro-Libyan magazine reported here.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, cited by the AL-KIFAH AL-'ARABI, also urged Syria to halt its cooperation with the United States in efforts to find a successor to Amin al-Jumayyil, whose term as head of state ended last month.

"Michel 'Awn has the rank of prime minister. He is not an Israeli, nor American, nor French. He's a Lebanese Arab who has replaced the president of the Republic, by decree," the Libyan leader said in the interview due to be appear Saturday.

Mr. al-Jumayyil, minutes before the end of his term at midnight on September 22, named a transitional, all-military government under the premiership of Gen. 'Awn, a fellow Maronite Christian. It has been recognized by Iraq.

But the country's Syrian-backed Moslem camp, while dismissing the 'Awn government as illegal, recognizes only the caretaker administration of Salim al-Huss, who was acting prime minister under Mr. al-Jumayyil.

Referring to an accord between Damascus and Washington, Mr. al-Qadhdhafi said: "It is absolutely impermissible to hold talks with America about the affairs of an Arab country, no matter which one, especially if it concerns the presidency of the Republic, which is a question of national sovereignty."

### Views 'False Accusations'

*NC2210090788 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Text] Colonel al-Qadhdhafi has declared that the Christians in Lebanon had been subjected to such provocations and false accusations that they were compelled to ally themselves with the devil. He added that the Muslim brothers are responsible for the current feverish climate in the region. The Muslim brothers have raised the slogan of an Islamic republic, Al-Qadhdhafi noted, adding that the homeland used to be divided along religious lines.

In an interview with the AL-KIFAH AL-'ARABI magazine, Al-Qadhdhafi said: I have warned for some time that it is dangerous to provoke the Christians in Lebanon. I have opposed labeling them as traitors. The statement that the Christians collaborate with the West and Israel involves a great deal of false accusation, injustice, and provocation. He added: If we reexamine history, we will find that the majority of those who collaborated with the Crusaders and later with Israel have been Muslims.

Al-Qadhdhafi said that Michel 'Awn is neither Israeli, American, nor French, but a Lebanese Arab who has replaced the president of the Republic by decree. He said: Even if we assume that he has carried out a coup d'etat, such an action has been carried out by numerous people in the Arab homeland. Who has protested to an Arab state in which a military coup has taken place?

General 'Awn is one of the country's sons who possesses the force which enabled him to engineer a coup and assume power. Hardline positions appear to be serving the conspiracy even without our knowledge. I mean by this the U.S. plot which seeks balkanization. We are serving it by creating this situation. We should have left matters as if they were legitimate right from the outset.

### Al-Huss Criticizes Al-Qadhdhafi, Condemns Israel

*NC2210095988 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss discussed a number of issues during an interview with the press today.

Asked about the administrative situation, particularly in the sphere of public security in light of the recent measures, Prime Minister Salim al-Huss said: Since this anomalous government status emerged, we have taken it upon ourselves to refrain from violating the regulations of the administration in all aspects because of our eagerness to maintain the unity of establishments which, we believe, guarantees the unity of the state at a time of division and fragmentation. The appointment of a new public security director portends the start of a new, grave turning point. The worst aspect of this step is that it violates an administration to which many interests of the citizens are linked.

Prime Minister al-Huss went on to say: The series of measures which were adopted yesterday and which affect key posts in public security confirms certain peoples' determination to pursue an irresponsible policy. We certainly reject all these measures and will continue to defend the citizens' interests as a result of such measures.

As for Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's stand on the situation in Lebanon, Prime Minister Salim al-Huss said: This is not the first time that Arab brothers have disappointed us with regard to fateful issues. Those who are rejoicing over leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's stand this time have in the past condemned the Libyan leader's interference in Lebanon's domestic affairs when he adopted stands in that regard.

The Libyan leader revealed the truth of the motive behind his new stand when he expressed his rejection of the principle of negotiations between the United States and Syria over the issue of the presidency in Lebanon. Syrian-U.S. negotiations were not opposed by those now jubilant over the Libyan leader's stand, although they did oppose the results.

On the recent Israeli attacks, Prime Minister al-Huss said the extent of the Israeli air strikes against the defenseless people in the South and western Al-Biqa' yesterday should be sufficient to condemn it. The bestial Israeli attacks should remind the world that our people will not stand idly by vis-a-vis the occupation of their land regardless of the sacrifices.

## Complaint Submitted to UN Over Israeli Raids

*NC2210071088 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Text] Ambassador Rashid Fakhuri, Lebanon's representative to the United Nations, has submitted a complaint to the UN secretary general and the Security Council against the Israeli raids.

## Israel Continues Retaliatory Military Actions

### Warplanes Carry Out Raids

*NC2110110188 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 21 Oct 88*

[Text] Israeli warplanes carried out seven raids against Palestinian and fundamentalists positions in Al-Miyah Wa Miyah, Darb al-Sim, 'Ayn al-Dulub, Jabal al-Halib, Iqlim al-Tuffah, Mashgharah, and 'Ayn al-Tinah between 1000 and 1100 this morning. Israeli military aircraft broke the sound barrier over Beirut and the mountain at 1210.

### Raids, Movements in South

*NC2110142588 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 21 Oct 88*

[Text] Israeli aircraft conducted raids this afternoon on Maydun in the central sector [in south Lebanon] and fired 20 rockets at residential areas. Security sources said the attack was carried out by Cobra helicopters. F-16 planes also raided Al-Luwayzah.

In another development, correspondents in the south say that Israeli armored forces were seen advancing from Metulla toward Marj 'Uyun in the occupied border strip.

### Planes Overfly Ba'labakk

*NC2210060488 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Text] Israeli warplanes carried out reconnaissance sorties at low altitude over Ba'labakk last night. Correspondents say that the lights in the Shaykh 'Abdallah Barracks, the base of the fundamentalists, were switched off. The lights were on earlier on the occasion of the celebration of the prophet's birthday. A state of alert was declared among the armed Hizballah men.

Meanwhile, the correspondents did not note any unusual movements by the Syrian forces in the area, although the Israeli planes flew over Syrian positions while attacking the Mashgharah area yesterday.

### Reconnaissance Missions

*NC2210091888 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0917 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew reconnaissance missions over Lebanese areas at 1020 today, breaking the sound barrier. Bursts of antiaircraft fire were directed at the planes.

### Flights Over Sidon, Camps

*NC2210100988 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew reconnaissance sorties over the South, particularly over Sidon and the Palestinian camps, at 1020 today, drawing antiaircraft fire. A state of maximum alert and mobilization was declared among the Palestinians in anticipation of raids.

### 'Fierce Clashes' Reported

*NC2210200788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1948 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Text] Fierce clashes are raging on the Kafr Falus-Lib'a-'Ayn al-Mir frontline between the South Lebanese Army and gunmen of the extremist Islamic organizations. Various types of machineguns and rockets are involved in the clashes, as well as artillery shelling.

At the same time, Israeli aircraft are flying over Sidon. An Israeli (MQ) reconnaissance plane was observed over Sidon and the south. Two Israeli gunboats were also monitored opposite the city's shore.

### Reinforcements in Border Strip

*NC2210220988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Text] The QATARI NEWS AGENCY [QNA] has said that 2 days ago Israeli forces dispatched reinforcements consisting of three armored battalions, three electronic jamming units, and Merkava mine sweepers. [sentence as heard] Israeli Chief of Staff Dan Shamron supervised the dispatch of these units, which arrived in the security strip today. The units performed aerial reconnaissance operations convering Syrian positions in Al-Biqa'.

QNA also cited an international source as saying that he does not rule out the possibility of Israel embarking on a limited military operation against joint positions near Mount Hebron during the next 3 days.

### Motorized Troops Monitored

*NC2310065788 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 23 Oct 88*

[Text] An NNA correspondent in the resisting south has reported that Zionist gunboats cruised off the Tyre-Ra's al-Naqurah coast all last night. Meanwhile, Israeli motorized troops' activities were monitored along the occupied border strips last night.

### SLA Kills 4 'Commandos'

*NC2310102688 Paris AFP in English 0917 GMT 23 Oct 88*

[Excerpt] Jerusalem, Oct 23 (AFP)—The Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) killed four unidentified armed commandos in southern Lebanon during a clash at dawn Sunday, informed sources in northern Israel reported.

The fighting erupted near Hasbayya, eight kilometers (five miles) north of the Israeli border in Israel's "security zone" in southern Lebanon, when the commandos fired on an SLA position with rockets and automatic weapons, the sources said.

Hasbayya is 18 kilometers (11 miles) northeast of Kfar Killa, another town within the security zone and where last Wednesday a suicide car-bomber attacked an Israeli military convoy killing seven soldiers. [passage omitted]

### 'Fierce' Fighting Rages

*NC2310104588 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 23 Oct 88*

[Text] National resistance fighters attacked an agent Lahd position near Hasbayya at dawn today. Fierce fighting ensued between resistance fighters and agent militiamen. All types of rockets and machineguns were used during the fighting.

Meanwhile, our correspondent in the western Al-Biqa' has reported that fierce fighting is currently raging on the western slopes of Mount Hermon between national resistance men and the Israeli troops with their agents.

### More on Continued Fighting

*NC2310135088 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 23 Oct 88*

[Text] The national resistance has continued to escalate its operations against the occupation forces and their agents. At 0600 today, PFLP resistance fighters stormed a position held by Lahd militiamen on the western slope of Mount Hermon. A clash ensued and continued until this afternoon. The resistance fighters used machineguns and RPG's during the clash.

Our correspondent in the western Al-Biqa' has reported that Israeli helicopters flew over the area for 30 minutes at approximately 1000 today, dropping thermal balloons.

PFLP sources have reported that four fighters were martyred. They are: Muhammad Qasim 'Abd al-Hadi, Sultan Ahmad Khayyat, Fu'ad Muhammad Firriyah, and Muhammad 'Ali Iskandar.

Meanwhile, tension has continued on the Kafr Falus, Lib'a, and 'Ayn al-Mir combat lines following the clashes that took place on these lines last night.

### 10 Casualties in Clashes

*NC2310153788 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Oct 88*

[Text] The PFLP has announced the loss of four of its fighters in a 2-hour battle with Israeli enemy soldiers and agent Lahds militia in South Lebanon today.

In a statement issued today, the PFLP said that a group of about 12 fedayeen fighters launched a widescale attack on positions held by Lahds militiamen and Israeli occupation forces near Habsayya at dawn today. The statement added that the fedayeen clashed with the enemy forces and their agents and that they used rockets and machineguns in the fighting, which lasted for 2 hours and in which 10 soldiers were killed or wounded.

The statement said: The enemy brought in fresh forces which pursued the attacking group. The enemy also used military helicopters in this pursuit, but our group managed to withdraw. Four of our comrades did not return. They are Muhammad Qasim Abd al-Hadi, Fuad Muhammad Fariyyah, Muhammad Ali Iskandar, and Sultan Ahmad Khayyat.

### Troop Concentrations Reported

*NC2310173988 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 Oct 88*

[Text] According to information received from the occupied border strip, Israeli occupation forces and agent Lahds militiamen have been placed on maximum alert, the hospitals have been put in a state of readiness, and some wards in Marj Uyun Hospital have been vacated. At the same time, there has been a concentration of Israeli armored forces in the eastern sector [of South Lebanon]. Concentrations of armored forces have been sighted on the Nab al-Dardarah plain axis while heavy guns have been installed in the southern part of the village of Al-'Man. A large Israeli force, including heavy tanks and mine detecting equipment, has assembled on the hills of Shaba.

In another development, fierce battles took place between resistance fighters and the enemy forces and their agents to the north of Shwayya in Hasbayya district this morning. Reports did not mention the extent of the losses. The resistance has been put on general alert in all areas as a precaution against a possible large-scale Israeli aggression, especially in Western al-Biqa and Iqlim al-Tuffah.

### Warplanes Fly Over Positions

*NC2310154688 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1528 GMT 23 Oct 88*

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew over Sidon and Iqlim al-Kharrub this afternoon drawing antiaircraft fire from Palestinian positions in Iqlim al-Kharrub and the mountain.

### Birri Calls Fighting East of Sidon 'Unjustified'

*NC2110142988 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 Oct 88*

[Text] Minister Nabih Birri, leader of the Amal Movement, has called the fighting east of Sidon unjustified and designed to undermine the Lebanese-Palestinian agreement reached in Damascus last Wednesday evening.

The Amal Movement leader added: This agreement is not directed against anyone other than Israel and its collaborators and is accessible to all the Lebanese and Palestinian groups and national forces.

Minister Birri said that the Amal Movement is determined not to retaliate, despite repeated provocations, acts of aggression, and interferences.

### Syrian Unit Withdraws From Southern Suburb

*NC2110173188 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 21 Oct 88*

[Text] According to a security report from West Beirut, a unit of the Syrian occupation forces withdrew this afternoon from its position in B'ir al-'Abd in the southern suburb.

Meanwhile, AL-MASIRAH magazine has reported that the Syrian occupation army has installed radar at Khaldah airport [Beirut International Airport] for military purposes. The magazine adds that the Syrians had already set up military fortifications in the area surrounding the airport without giving any reasons. Certain security sources, however, do not rule out the possibility that these measures are connected to a possible military confrontation between Hizballah and the Amal Movement.

In West Beirut also, the Amal Movement took control of a center belonging to the Arab Socialist Union in Corniche al-Mazra'ah this afternoon, after clashes in which one person was injured. The Corniche al-Mazra'ah road was closed for some time.

There is also tension in Harat Hurayk in the wake of exchanges of fire between Amal and Hizballah gunmen this afternoon. There are no reports of any casualties.

### Further on Withdrawal

*NC2210140488 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Excerpts] What is taking place in the southern suburb and on the Coastal Road? REUTER reports speak of a partial Syrian withdrawal from the suburb and of a stronger Syrian presence on the coastal road reinforced with Palestinian support.

Security sources have told the Voice of Lebanon that the Syrian forces have made significant changes in the deployment of its troops.

What does REUTER say in detail? Citing security and political sources, REUTER says that Syria and its Palestinian allies are massing troops near Sidon in a bid to thwart attempts by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat to increase his influence there. The sources are cited as saying that, over the last week, Syria has redeployed 3,000 of a 7,000-man strong force stationed in the southern Beirut suburb to positions on the Coastal Road between Beirut and Sidon.

Moreover, around 1,000 fighters from four Palestinian groups based in Damascus, including Fatah-the Uprising, which is led by Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], have been sent to the Al-Kharrub region. It has been learned that these Palestinian fighters are armed with tanks and multi-rocket launchers. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Palestinian and Amal fighters have recently begun to fortify their positions to the east of Sidon. Press reports have mentioned that pro-'Arafat fighters may advance from the camps and try to seize villages east of Sidon, in an offensive similar to the one they launched in 1987.

Speaking in Baghdad today, Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, Bassam Abu Sharif, confirmed reports about a redeployment of Syrian troops. He said that Syria has moved an armored brigade and two battalions formed recently from members of Palestinian groups loyal to that country toward Sidon. Syria, Abu Sharif added, also has supplied the Amal Movement with rocket launchers and field artillery. Yasir 'Arafat's adviser warned that these are signs that Syria is preparing for battle.

The preceding developments have occurred in the South. What about the southern suburb? REUTER cites eyewitnesses as saying that Syrians have dismantled most of their checkpoints there. Syrians also are said to have disassembled their telephone and communication equipment and loaded them on military trucks.

According to Islamic security sources, the Syrians have evacuated many of their checkpoints in the suburb, but continue to man the essential ones situated at major intersections and at the entrances to the suburb. REUTER cites these sources as voicing fear that this partial Syrian withdrawal may lead to renewed fighting between Amal and Hizballah.

### Withdrawal Almost Completed

*NC2210155288 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Text] The AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM news agency says that Syrian forces have withdrawn almost completely from Al-Ruways, Hayy al-Karamah, Al-Ma'murah, and certain parts of Bi'r al-J'abd in the southern suburb of Beirut. The agency adds that Hizballah raided the homes of Amal members and supporters following the Syrian withdrawal. According to the agency, Hizballah also kidnapped four Amal gunmen near Bi'r al-'Abd Mosque this afternoon.

### Vice President Khaddam Returns From Libya

*JN2210192688 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Text] Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam returned to Damascus this evening after a brief working visit to Libya. He gave a letter from His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad to Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution, concerning current Arab developments.

On hand to welcome and see off his excellency the vice president was Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, member of the 1 September Revolution Command.

### Assembly Speaker Receives UK Parliamentarians

*JN2310154088 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1415 GMT 23 Oct 88*

[Text] People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah received in Damascus at noon today a British parliamentary delegation led by Robert Adley, a member of the British House of Commons.

During the meeting, Qaddurah explained to the guest delegation the current issues in the Arab region and the stands toward them, particularly the Palestine question. He also explained the importance of holding an effective international conference to be attended by the concerned parties under UN auspices to resolve this question. Members of the guest delegation appreciated the prominent Syrian position in this important region. They also supported the Palestinian Arab people's right to self-determination.

### Received by Al-Shar'

*JN2310194888 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 23 Oct 88*

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this evening received a British parliamentary delegation comprising Robert Adley from the Conservative Party and Andrew Faulds and Stewart (Randly) from the Labor Party. Talks dealt with the current situation in the region and bilateral relations.

### Iraqi Opposition Leader, Delegation Depart

*JN2210205788 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Text] Mr Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, and his delegation left Damascus this evening after a weeklong visit to Syria during which they met with President Hafiz al-Asad.

In a predeparture statement to the SANA correspondent, Al-Hakim said: My meeting with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad was fraternal, glorious, and comprehensive. During this meeting, we sensed the sincerity in dealing with the various issues under discussion, the open-mindedness toward these issues, and the seriousness in tackling them.

He affirmed that his visit to Syria was very good on all levels. He said: The discussions with the Syrian brother officials dealt with the various issues. We presented our views on the conditions in Iraq and the suffering of the various social groups and strata of the Iraqi people in southern, northern, and central Iraq at the hands of the Iraqi regime.

Al-Hakim added: I have closely felt—and I had known in the past—that Syria under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad is characterized by the unchanging perspicacious and strategic understanding of the various issues. This unchanging understanding had several dimensions in terms of confronting world Zionism and imperialism, formulating Syria's firm stand toward the oppressed Iraqi people and toward the Lebanese people, and Syria's insistence on defending the Lebanese people against the plots being hatched against them. There is also the unchanging stand toward the Islamic revolution in Iran and other basic and fateful issues.

## Afghanistan

### Najibullah Speaks to PDPA Plenum

*LD2310214788 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari*
*1630 GMT 23 Oct 88*

["Excerpt" of speech by Najibullah, president of the Republic and general secretary of the PDPA, to the PDPA Central Committee Plenum on 19 October in Kabul; recorded—read by announcer]

[Text] Exactly 1 year ago, the second nationwide party conference on national reconciliation began its work. This conference discussed the most important issues in party and social development, and endorsed the PDPA platform on national reconciliation. This conference gave the leadership a mandate to take action and achieve reconciliation. You will remember that this party gathering was characterized by a high level of party principles and great political dynamism. All members of the Politburo and each [word indistinct] of the representatives spoke at the conference. The new program of action and the PDPA charter were approved unanimously.

It has been a year since then. During these 365 days we have done much work. Let me mention just a few of our gains. During this period the Loya Jirgah met, the presidency was established, Milli Shura elections were held, the Milli Shura was formed, the Geneva accords were signed, the withdrawal of the limited Soviet contingents began, and important foreign visits were made.

All these occurred in order to bring about national reconciliation. We have learned many things during this year. We once again learned who are our friends and enemies. During this period, we gained greater confidence in the correctness of our policy and our cause. Let us maintain this confidence in the future.

We have become more powerful, as our enemies have seen. This power and trust emanate from the [word indistinct] work by us. We should know very well that the Soviet Union will not desert us. Only the Soviet contingents which accomplished their internationalist duties returned home. We know that the Soviet Union is expanding its economic and humanitarian assistance to our country.

Our people expected the Afghan situation to normalize following the signing of the Geneva accords. Since 15 May the entire world has had a chance to observe that Afghanistan and the Soviet Union are loyal to the provisions of the Geneva accords. The Soviet Union began withdrawing its forces at the scheduled time and in strict conformity with the timetable. At the moment, 50 percent of the Soviet forces have returned to their homeland. Fifty-nine military towns have been handed over to us. Soviet garrisons remain in the six provinces which are located alongside the Kabul-(Hayratan) and Shindand-Towraghoudi highways.

What is the general situation of the opposition and government forces facing each other today? These 4 months have been difficult for the Armed Forces. Our Armed Forces had to carry out both protection and combat duties all around Afghanistan and independently ensure normal activities by units, companies, posts, and establishments. We carry out combat operations in all regions without asking for help from a friendly army. The number of active armed opposition detachments increased two-fold this summer.

Despite this, the situation is not at all discouraging. Although in Konduz we face the most disgusting phenomena—flagrant treachery, shameful cowardice—a number of party and state officials showed an inability to direct and control combat operations with the resulting confusion. At the same time, the Konduz situation revealed that the people could fight and victorious.

The personnel of cerain units and companies of the State Security Ministry and Interior Ministry, as well as workers at Spinzar [factory in Konduz] self-defense detachment who did not allow the factory to fall into enemy hands, have shown heroism. The enemy was unsuccessful in carrying out its planned, widely publicized, general aggression all over Afghanistan.

The Qandahar garrison has been fighting all these months with self-sacrifice. The opposition forces cannot enter the center of the city despite all their efforts. They cannot break the defense line at the airport. You also know how the military personnel and citizens of Qalat have defended their city for 30 days and are still defending it. In Qalat enemy losses were 20-times greater then the defenders losses.

One must ask: Why do the citizens of the cities and residential areas immediately feel increasing pressure from the enemy after the withdrawal of the Soviet garrisons and suffer unanticipated pain and deprivation? Have we not been preparing for this task? Were we not busy consolidating the defense of the cities? Have we not been creating necessary financial resources for the siege situation or separation of this or that region? Of course, we were creating these resources and are still continuing this task, but much time has been wasted on hollow words. Please understand that the situation has become difficult in the country since 15 May. We should consider this new situation today during our assessment of the situation and take urgent political and military measures.

Comrades, in the party the greatest political campaign, that is reporting and exchanging views with the party members, took place. Based on a decision by the nationwide party conference, the reporting campaign was carried out in the form of exchanging views and reporting to all members of the party. This exchange of views was difficult and hard work. In this regard, 9,500 commissions were formed by 32,000 worthy party members. Exchanging views was carried out among 162,000, or 80 percent, of PDPA members. They presented 63,000 proposals and views and received replies to 800 questions. This campaign was carried out in the Army, the People's Military, the Ministry of State Security, and in K bul and other provinces.

We consulted the party in this difficult and changing period, and requested each party member to express his views on the important issues of our life. The meeting provided the opportunity to assess the potential of party organization. Such an exchange of views contributed to organizing forces and consolidating discipline. The exchange of views is a specific form of control by party members over the activities of the higher bodies. The employees of the provincial committees and secretaries of the primary organizations become better aware of the real party life and its problems, and at the same time heard the assessment of their activities by the party members.

During the individual meetings, the party members were disturbed by the replies to those questions that had been worrying them and saw the path before them. A reply should be given to the collective demands. Thoughtful viewpoints should be transformed into specific work. I want to reply in my speech to the basic questions that wre raised by party members at these meetings.

What can we say about the first item covered, that is, the implementation of the national reconciliation policy? It is very important that a clear majority of party members fully support and approve of the practical activities of the Politburo and the leadership of the country is this area. The national reconciliation policy is the fruit of several years of thinking and experience of the party and a reflection of the people's demand and need for peace and their hatred for war. The policy of reconciliation is a peace-creating power of our people. The reconciliation policy is our people's diplomacy.

Comrade Najibullah mentioned in his speech that prior to the declaration of the national reconciliation policy, the extraordianry plenum and sessions of Hamal [month beginning 21 March] were held in the party. We received full support and were given a mandate to follow the national reconciliation policy in the nationwide party conference. It also should not be forgotten that the PDPA, in conformity with the Constitution, acts as the organizer and executor of the national reconciliation policy without analyzing the situation. Let us examine our gains in the 21 months since the declaration of the national reconciliation policy.

1. Time has shown once again that there is no alternative to the national reconciliation policy. This policy is a valuable asset and is our national wealth. The war drew the country closer to the abyss of backwardness and poverty. There is only one way out: the path of compromise and agreements. We have achieved many successes in this path.

2. None of the political opposition groups has discussed a positive and realistic program for establishing peace in the country. The national reconciliation policy can attract and instigate a reaction by the most [word indistinct] forces. We will give serious dynamism to this policy.

3. Our system is a favorable foundation on which to build a broad coalition of the main national forces in order to achieve a national consensus. We will maximize the use of these forces. Despite all the difficulties, we should advance and act decisively and boldly. Reconciliation is difficult work. Only the brave and bold can take a step toward reconciliation and compromise. Reconciliation not only demands serious work but requires time, acceptance of risk, and sacrifice. We can easily see that after the Geneva accords were signed we relaxed, thinking we were seeing the true fruits of reconciliation.

This was a mistake. We did not notice how the enemy was involving us in military activities. Some comrades mentioned during the exchange of views that the national reconciliation policy did not make any impact on irreconcilable people. Yes, this is true in some cases. The irreconciliables talk to us in the language of shells, rockets, and fire. We should know this fact: If they draw us into war or if they impose war on us, we should draw them into reconciliation and impose reconciliation on them.

We should not forget the message of reconciliation. This message invites us to crush the irreconciliables, the convoys carrying weapons, and military bases. The people have all voted for this message. It should be implemented.

Then Comrade Najibullah spoke about the principles and contents of the national reconciliation policy. He said these principles are: struggle for a cease-fire throughout Afghan territory, expansion of contacts with the opposition inside and outside the country, mobilization of national democratic forces under the banner of reconciliation, observation of the Geneva accords, and efforts toward the political normalization of the situation.

Our work with the opposition is bad. By this I mean the sending of letters and signing of protocols. I believe that each one of us could do a lot of work in this area. Contact could be made with the opposition through the villages and relatives in order to advance our policy. We are expecting further work from the National Front. A new struggle should begin to establish contacts and compromise with the internal and external opposition. The armed opposition states that it has not surrendered in war. We do not want to surrender through peaceful means either. We are encouraging them to move toward reconciliation, but they want war.

Is there a solution? The opposition should be clearly told that the reality is that no matter what efforts they make, they are not capable of seizing power in the country. Some successes in some regions does not mean a seizure of power. However, if they enter a coalition, they could find their way to holding power. The important thing is that we will be achieving our people's most important aim: We should move from issuing general invitations to specific work with commanders and leaders.

An assessment shows that we have made few compromises at the districts and provincial levels. The people do not judge reconciliation by Kabul, but on the basis of their own villages and cities. A decisive and courageous step in this regard is necessary.

The Geneva accords became for Afghanistan and the Soviet Union inviolable laws, but for the U.S. and Pakistan only concealment for their plans to interfere in our internal affairs. The United States, as the guarantor to the implementation of the Geneva accords, has not halted the transfer of a large quantity of weapons and ammunition through Pakistani territory. The extremists have abused the withdrawal of the Soviet and Afghan unis from the borders and greatly increased the transfer of weapons and ammunition, as well as subversive groups.

Comrade Najibullah then spoke about the decisive utilization of the prestige of the UN:

1. The Republic of Afghanistan should study the idea of asking the UN Security Council to assess the threat which exists as a result of Pakistan's interference in the internal affairs of our country and is directed against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan. This document could be sent to the UN Security Council immediately as an international alarm. In connection with the violation of the Geneva accords, the fate of the Afghan refugees in Pakistani and Iranian camps is in question. These neighboring countries have created numerous obstacles barring the return of the refugees to their homeland; they use blackmail and direct threats.

The Government of Afghanistan will officially refer the problem to the guarantor countries of the Geneva accords, the Soviet Union and the United States, and to the UN secretary general, concerning the fact that Pakistan is not observing the Geneva accords concerning the return of the Afghan refugees.

2. Afghanistan has always pursued the principles of traditional neutrality and nonalignment. These principles have been enshrined in the new Constitution of the country. However, forces in the world exist who are trying to use our land as a springboard of aggression against other states and in this way force us to deviate from the path of neutrality and nonalignment. Afghanistan will be the way the people of Afghanistan want it to be. Let those forces not attempt to determine the destiny of Afghanistan in the capitals of other countries.

The Afghans have the talent to determine the destiny of their homeland. In order to guarantee these (?sacred) principles, we propose that an international conference under the auspices of the UN be convened and the UN secretary general be requested to take responsibility for convening this conference. Simultaneously, with the [word indistinct] of the neutral position of contemporary Afghanistan, this conference could create an international program for assistance in the socioeconomic development of Afghanistan.

3. It is necessary that the question of the formation of a government of a broad and acceptable basis for the involved parties be studied with interest. Such a government could, in the first place, attract all sides to hold a dialogue and then take measures as its principled and urgent tasks toward the convocation of a peace conference, the establishment of a cease-fire, monitoring its observation, and confronting the forces who resist it. But when we speak of the creation of a government on the broad basis of coalition, certain opposition circles declare they are opposed to the participation of the PDPA and demand the speediest and complete withdrawal of the Soviet forces.

For some time our proposals in this regard met with negative answers. With the change in the party policy through the declaration of the policy of national reconciliation, as well as with the withdrawal of the Soviet forces, many issues change. The question of the PDPA should be assessed in a particular way and with the consideration of the great role that this party has played, and is playing, in the progressive renewal of the society and the defense of national interests.

This party has been and still is placing the interests of the people and reconciliation above party interests. For the sake of peace, the PDPA relinquished its monopoly on power. Our party is ready to take additional steps for peace. We want to form a broad-based coalition government. This means that the ruling coalition will include all political currents and be able to rely on all parts of society and be acceptable to all people. Such a government is the only way to help (?restore) peace and national unity. Those who fan the fire of contradictions, those who are fighting for power and hope to achieve it through arms, are dragging the country toward tragedy and the people toward annihilation.

In consideration of the agreements with the Soviet Union, the government is now preparing a new economic program. We have been able to attract many investors and traders, including returnees, and the national economy is growing. Through expanding economic relations with friendly countries, we have established contacts with representatives of companies in capitalist countries and this will help us to create various establishments.

Financial, credit, monetary, and customs and excise policies will take into account the interest of the private sector in industry, transportation, and the area of business services. The economy should strengthen the national reconciliation policy.

On ensuring security along the highways, Comrade Najibullah said: Why should our people and foreign trade companies suffer damages? The same is true for airports. We have two airports: Kabul and Qandahar airports. Kabul airport is being bombarded. Qandahar International Airport was built as a major center for international airlines. Because of the current complicated military situation, this airort is inactive.

Comrade Najibullah said: Our work in the field of religion should be restructured in line with the PDPA action program and the Constitution. The clergy should become our close allies in the work of reconciliation. We should call on the clergy and ask them to become more actively involved in national reconciliation and support this patriotic movement. Struggle for peace is the religious duty of every believer in Islam. It is our duty to bring about the basis for performing this religious duty.

Following that, Comrade Najibullah said: Our state's military doctrine is a defensive one. During a debate on how party members approach the issue of defense, party members expressed their readiness to defend the country and make every effort to achieve victory. Such a decision is entirely natural. We must defend our country for our children's sake. It has always been this way and it will be so in the future.

The state, party, and military defense organs are organized in the center of every province. In every city there are sufficient armed forces, military-civilian units, equipment, and weapons. They can attain their planned objectives through coordination.

I want to draw special attention to the urgent need to purge the cities of enemies and suspicious persons who freely roam there. I would like to recall that this is what caused the fall of Konduz. Appropriate measures are being taken to transfer modern military technology to separate provincial centers. A sufficient amount of food and financial and material means will be transferred to cities. The security of the Kabul-(Hayratan) highway, which has not yet been normalized in the area south of Salang and where opposition bands continually steal various types of motor vehicles, particularly vehicles loaded with food and fuel, should be ensured. In order to ensure communication lines, the Politburo has proposed setting up a commission which will be authorized to take extraordinary measures.

At the present juncture, the Armed Forces remain the reliable force of revolution. Today the best representatives of all strata of Afghan society are concentrated in the Armed Forces. The Armed Forces have talented officers and modern technology and weapons.

Comrade Najibullah stated that we have 500,000 Armed Forces personnel. Our Armed Forces carry out security, transport, and defense duties. The high command of Armed Forces will work in a (?more modern way) for the betterment of the leadership of the units.

More demands are to be made upon the heads of provincial defense councils. The culprits should be made more accountable, removed from their jobs, and put on trial. All should be notified. We should resolutely transfer healthy soldiers from noncombatant units to combat units. There are such reserves. The apparatus of the Ministries of Defense, State Security, and Interior are full of extra officers and soldiers. The military personnel of the units who take part in combat operations can be be paid extra money for every combat action they participate in; these are extraordinary measures. But these measures are demanded by a situation that has acquired extraordinary characteristics.

In the present situation, it is necessary to bring about due reforms in the political work of officers and soldiers. Commanders should jointly be responsible with political officers to enhance units' and contingents' morale. The examples should be set not only on platforms but also on the battlefield, in barracks and outposts. The most confident shield of the country is the (?heart) of a soldier. The victory will go to those to whom the heart of a soldier belongs. In this respect political workers should be exemplary; this is their duty.

The aim of our war is extremely simple and understandable—the defense of our territorial integrity and the protection of our independence and our people's achievements. The deepening of the national reconciliation policy, armed defense of the Republic of Afghanistan, and the expansion and strengthening of a government with a broad coalition basis should be merged in a united movement. Such are mutual relations and such are our duties.

Comrade Najibullah allocated a part of his speech to party issues: This is completely natural. It is our party and we should think about the evolution of the work of all its circles. No doubt one of the greatest achievements of national reconciliation is new a political system in the country. This system is gradually taking form. The PDPA is playing a determining role in its formation. On the whole, a movement of progress toward the future has come in to existence in Afghan society in the framework of the national reconciliation policy. The party was able to share power with other parties through the formation of this political system and it was able to divide state party duties. Taking into account the new situation, this process continues. The power of the Presidency has now changed into a leading position of the political system. The PDPA seriously supports this process.

It is once again necessary to pay attention to the strengthening of the leadership of state powers—governors, district councils, and subdistrict councils. We agreed that provincial party secretaries, Armed Forces and police commanders, and the provincial heads of state security should work in close contact with governors and they should obey them. However, is has not yet been accomplished in a suitable form. The party is the vanguard political force of society and should manifest the highest political and organizations formation and the best discipline in society.

About the internal life of the party, Comrade Najibullah pointed out that the PDPA did not want to recruit [word indistinct] individuals into its ranks. However, in war and similar complicated conditions the recruitment did not stop with the best sons of the country. We have solved the subject of party self-confidence for the coming 2-3 years. The Central Committee will pursue the policy of saving party funds. The importance and role of the primary party organizations have been emphasized. The fulfillment of party work requires bravery and self-sacrifice under war conditions. Party organization secretaries and party group secretaries, our assistants, have tirelessly carried out political work among people. They fight for the carrying out of party directives.

Najibullah said: Party workers are our greatest assets. They have obtained complex knowledge and experience in organization. Party cadres should be sent to the state administration, particularly to the Armed Forces. The comrades who leave provincial centers to work with primary party organizations in villages deserve support and encouragement.

On another important party subject he said: We must simplify the party organization structures. Previously when the PDPA was involved in all matters, including economic matters, we set up a very broad and powerful network, which had positive aspects. However, these positive aspects are changing to negative aspects under the new situation.

On the democratic left he stated: There are three organizations among the democratic left. The multiparty system includes seven political organizations. Sometime ago the leadership of these organizations met for the first time. This gathering was extremely successful from the point of view of its content, depth of views, and its political assessments. The PDPA should take steps to accept these organizations in the interests of enhancing political pluralism and uniting patriotic forces.

On relations with the government Najibullah said: The idea of setting up a coalition government under the premiership of Esteemed Muhammad Hasan Sharq was a PDPA initiative. We must remember that the PDPA works in ministries and state institutions. We should consider our activity in the related administration as a party duty.

The party has commissioned its members who are in state positions to assist in every way possible the head of the government and his cabinet. They should help to continue this fruitful work in their offices and sincerely carry out their tasks in their relevant localities.

The plenum discussed relations between the party and the DYOA. Our party is young. The DYOA has developed over 12 long years. The DYOA has been transformed in its ranks: It has 5,000 primary organizations and 1,000 professional staff members. This organization reflects well the demands of youths; it protects and support them.

From the viewpoint of education and training, Afghanistan is 127th in the world. Over the years of the undeclared war, 1,850 schools have been destroyed and 2,000 teachers have been martyred. The enemy is trying to deprive the young generation of their education and the youths their future. Therefore, we are consistently engaged in matters of education and training. Skilled teachers have been trained with the help of friendly countries. With each passing year, the number of pupils in primary schools increases. Another major interest of youth is work and training. We should organize a policy on finding work for them, but in a concise way and without haste. Children work with their parents. They work within the family collectives. This is our fundamental principle.

In the area of job training, we should decrease the places of work in the state sector and private establishments. [sentence as heard] In order to do this, we should ask the Council of Ministers to allocate (?aspects) of work for this purpose. Professional-technical training should be speedily developed. At present, we have 23 vocational schools with 5,000 students. The difficult political-military situation in the country requires the active participation of the DYOA in strengthening the Armed Forces. The DYOA must show its willingness in this area. The duty of successfully activating the DYOA rests with its leadership. The PDPA Central Committee and the Politburo are concentrating on these matters. A special section has been formed in the Central Committee for work with youths. A number of provincial secretaries of the DYOA are members of the Executive Bureaus of the PDPA provincial committees.

Now I will mention unity, the most vital question in our party life. Party members, in the course of exchanging views on unity, stated that a powerful center is needed. Factionalists are traitors to the party and the homeland. The party should be saved from those who have forgotten the faith of the homeland and think only of themselves. Following the 18th plenum, we have been engaged in consolidating unity and creating an atmosphere of collective work. Respect for the opinions of party members—although in some instances these opinions of party members were not in accord with the collective opinion of the party—was enhanced.

The meetings held in the month of Hamal [beginning 21 March 1988] led to a wide purge of dogmatists and factionalists from the party. The unity question headed all topics that were discussed at the all-party conference at which we signed the unity resolution. This question was also seriously assessed at the Central Committee Plenum in July. All problems have been discussed and solved.

However, what tasks have actually been accomplished? Very little work has been done. Some party members have been so deeply engaged in squabbles on the sidelines that they cannot leave them or, more probably, they do not want to leave them. These comrades, despite all efforts, do not realize that a wing cannot work on its own. The factionalists—in particular, those opposing the national reconciliation policy—did everything. They opposed unity and the party's most vital collective decisions. Of 9,500 commissions established to exchange views, only in 52 cases did some comrades express doubts about the national reconciliation policy.

We witnessed the actions committed by these individuals against the PDPA. However, the party leadership still approached this matter with patience. It explained, carried out training, and held individual talks so that these individuals would understand the present stage of party and state policy. The party leadership did not allow these individuals who, consciously or unconsciously, engaged in antiparty actions to be investigated, punished, and thrown out of the party.

Some adventurist and shortsighted elements have engaged in measures which damage the unity of the party and which have been transformed into open anti-state activities and provocations within the Armed Forces against the Republic of Afghanistan to seize power. At this critical time, when the destiny of 200,000 party members, the homeland, and the Republic of Afghanistan, is in question, we are dutybound to take necessary measures to maintain party unity and defend the state's sovereignty against such elements. Naturally these individuals, in addition to being expelled from the party, will be investigated and prosecuted.

In conclusion, Comrade Najibullah pointed out that our political system is to a large extent a new phenomenon. The potential possibilities of this system have yet to be revealed. The basic principles of our new political system are broad democracy and pluralism. It must be mentioned that pluralism cannot be reflected simply in a multiparty system; this is only one of its aspects. Our system's pluralism is reflected in the existence of various social foundations, the freedom of holding a variety of views, and the freedom of choice of life style and fields of activity. The pluralist system reflects the existing variety of traditional and cultural life of Afghan society.

Similarly, the pluralist system is reflected in the possibility of uniting all these hetrogeneous elements in reform and progress. In this way our political system has created a foundation for national unity and it opens the way toward reform based on national unity. Our peace-loving potential includes the following facts: a new state system based on the tradition of democracy and open to the participation of all social strata and political forces; our present Armed Forces, unique in the history of Afghanistan; our popular party, an experienced and organized force of the country which works with other political parties on national reconciliation; and eventually, the resolution of complicated political, economic, social, international, and military problems.

Great possibilities are available to us. It is important we use these possibilities independently and expertly. No one should doubt the persistent pursuit of national reconciliation by the PDPA. When there is a choice between peace and war, the PDPA chooses peace. But we should abort the criminal acts of the extremists. We have the right to choose the action's required to ensure peace, the security of the people, and the sovereignty of Afghanistan. Today unity is our major task. Today the most important aspect of unity is practical work and specific results. We are ready to defend the Republic of Afghanistan. This moment's duty is peace because the people of Afghanistan want peace.

Comrade Najibullah called on everyone to struggle for peace, cooperation, and national reconciliation, and to defend them with political and military methods and with revolutionary jubilation.

Dear listeners that was Comrade Najibullah's report, which was delivered at the PDPA plenum on 19 October.

### Najibullah's Address Marking Muhammad's Birthday

*LD2210221688 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari*
*1638 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Speech by President Najibullah at the international conference commemorating the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad on 22 October in Kabul—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Praise to God and peace be with Muhammad, his offspring, and all his companions. Ulema, scholars, dear guests, upstanding personalities participating in the international Islamic conference in Kabul, and dear participants. On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan allow me to express my cordial gratitude for your coming to meet your Afghan Muslim brothers. The convening of such an international Islamic gathering in Kabul shows that the fate of the Muslims of Afghanistan is a cause of concern and special attention to international Islamic society. First, I congratulate you, all Muslims of Afghanistan and Muslims of the world, on the occasion of the birthday of Prophet Muhammad. His birthday is the reason this international conference is meeting in Kabul, the capital of the Islamic country of Afghanistan, with the participation of the true representatives of Muslim countries and organizations. [passage omitted]

The people of Afghanistan are fully confident that in the present difficult circumstances they are not alone and have with them the hearts of their Muslim brothers all over the world. Our Muslim people see their happiness in the prosperity of the Islamic world and its peace and calm in the world. This is the desire of all the Muslims in our country. There is complete compliance with the spirit and substance of the holy religion of Islam. Because Afghanistan is an Islamic country and a member of the large human family, its fate is naturally tied to that of the people of the world. Today more than half of the world's countries make independent efforts for peace in the world.

And with the enhancement of national liberation movements in many Asian, African, and Latin American countries new political regimes, based on popular power, have been established. However, the history of the contemporary world tells us that everywhere in the world—in both the East and the West—wherever nations created new national regimes for the purpose of alleviating backwardness and eliminating misery and poverty in society, dark forces mourned them [as heard] and conspired to overthrow and defame such states. In today's vast world, we can see tens of examples of this very fact. No corner of the world is safe from the damage of such dark conspiracies. [passage omitted]

For the past 10 years we have suffered from numerous problems associated with the war imposed on our Muslim country. Our only goal is to ensure the tranquillity of the religious people of Afghanistan and their development and progress, which has its source in Islamic dictates. The war has been imposed on us from abroad. Billions of dollars have been allocated for this year by the United States to intensify and continue this war. There are more than 100 military training camps in Pakistan. These camps promote killing Muslims in Afghanistan. There is no sadder catastrophe than this. These undeniable facts cannot be ignored by anyone at all, by anyone who is interested in peace and life. [passage omitted]

There are 250,000-300,000 religious ulemas and clergymen, 32,000 mosques, 500 takyas, and 14,000 holy places in Afghanistan. According to this statistic, there is 1 clergyman for every 42 citizens and 1 place of worship for every 470 persons. All these figures clearly show the force and power of the sacred Islamic religion and the firm belief of our people in this religion. [passage omitted]

The April Revolution by the people of Afghanistan succeeded on the basis of a need for change, for ransforming society, eliminating backwardness, and saving the people from poverty and homelessness. The objectives of this revolution by the people, the PDPA leadership, and all forces calling for change and progress, came from this Islamic society.

All forces fully perceive that Afghanistan is an Islamic country. The thoughts and ideology of our people and the level of their social perception have a natural and rational link with the principles of Islam. This characteristic never can be ignored in the process of the development and fundamental transformation of the country.

The Afghan revolution was a national and democratic revolution that had the duty to secure the interests of the overwhelming majority of the Muslim masses of the people, removing centuries-old backwardness, bringing development and growth to the country in accordance with the demands of the time, and putting Afghanistan at the level of the developed countries of the world. [passage omitted]

However, the enemies of Afghanistan failed to tolerate all these measures for the development and progress of the country, our services for the holy religion of Islam, our measures to ensure the aims of the April Revolution. As a result, 35 hospitals, 334 mosques, and 1,870 schools were destroyed, and 2,000 ulema and mullahs who told the truth to our Muslim people were martyred. Thousands upon thousands of our innocent people have lost their lives in this futile war, which still continues on the provocation of imperialism. All these acts are against the tenets of the Koran and Islamic law. This pitiful situation is unbearable for every true Muslim and faithful Afghan.

Based on their religious obligations, the ulema and clergy of Afghanistan initiated steps to ensure peace and halt fratricide. They proposed that the state declare the national reconciliation policy. In January 1987, aware of the country's inevitable need, the Afghan Government declared a policy of national reconciliation and all-round peace, based on the proposal by the ulma and clergy. As a result of this policy, 150,000 refugees have returned to their country despite the obstacles and problems created by Pakistan, and 60,000 people who used to operate against the Republic of Afghanistan now defend their country.

In the tradtion of their forefathers, the people of Afghanistan convened a Grand Assembly, approved a constitution, and elected a president in the month of Qaws 1366 [November-December 1987]. For the first time in the history of the country, the people approved a constitution that is second to no neighboring country's. [passage omitted]

As a free and independent country, on the basis of its traditional policy, under conditions of national reconciliation, in line with the principles set out in its constitution, and in line with the UN Charter and the World Declaration of Human Rights, the Republic of Afghanistan supports the struggles of the world's peoples and nations for peace and social progress. The Republic of Afghanistan stand firmly against racism, apartheid, and racial discrimination in the world. With regard to regional and international disputes, we prefer the principle of dialogue and negotiation over war and bloodshed.

We seriously favor a world free from nuclear arms and we want the elimination of military bases worldwide, particularly [words indistinct] which are located next to the Islamic countries and cause serious danger to the region's security. As a Muslim country and based on our Islamic and human ties, we actively support the liberation of Arab lands from the domination of the Israeli occupiers and the formation of an independent Palestinian state, based on the wishes of the Palestinians as expressed by their liberation organization. We want an immediate end to war and aggression against the defenseless Palestinian people.

We support and welcome the end of the war between the two Islamic countries of Iraq and Iran. We hope for lasting peace in the Gulf region and between the two neighboring countries of Iran and Iraq, based on Security Council Resolution No 598. [passage omitted]

The Republic of Afghanistan has a far-sighted and flexible policy to end the war in the country, stop foreign interference, and resolve the issues around Afghanistan. To these ends, we carried out indirect negotiations with Pakistan for 6 years through the mediation of Diego Cordovez, the UN secretary general's special envoy.

The national reconciliation policy gives new character to the nature and content of these negotiations. These accords were finally signed on 14 April 1988 by Afghanistan and Pakistan, and are guaranteed by the United States and the Soviet Union. The Afghan side acts responsibly in observing the provisions of these accords. Up to now more than half of the Soviet contingents have returned to their country in conformity with the Geneva accords.

Unfortunately, Pakistan and the United States not only ignore the Geneva accords, but they create obstacles on the path of of Afghanistan's attempts to implement the accords. Military camps are still active in Pakistan. The fire of war has been intensified by extremists with the full support of Pakistan and the United States. Everyday innocent people are martyred as a result of long-range rockets and bomb explosions. Civilian aircraft are being shot down by Stinger missiles made in the United States. We are fully confident that the responsibility for every single drop of innocent blood spilled will rest with those who are against God's will intentionally kill Muslims. They will not escape the unjust shedding of blood.

Esteemed scholars, there is no doubt that under present conditions—the undeclared destructive war—our Muslim people are going through a difficult period. However, we fully believe in the correctness of our path. Our path is one of ensuring peace and tranquillity for the people, ensuring social justice, and maintaining fraternity and brotherhood among the inhabitants of our united, independent, nonaligned, and neutral country Afghanistan and between the world Muslims and all humanity. We have chosen this path relying on God and the demands of our millions of people.

We have complete confidence that God's help is with us and peace and tranquillity will be established in our country with the grace of God. Future generations of Afghans will remember with respect the memory of those who stood beside us during the difficult days. The independent, nonaligned, and neutral country of Afghanistan has always been an Islamic country and will stand in the true trench of Islam.

The state of Afghanistan is an inseparable part of the Islamic community and its present transient and temporary difficulties cannot deprive our Muslim people of this position. The people and the state of the Republic of Afghanistan are seriously interested in renewing Afghanistan's ICO membership and want to play an active part in the consolidation and unity of the world's Muslims through this international organization.

We make a fraternal request of you, the worthy representatives of the world's Islamic countries and organizations, based on God's instruction which says to deliver to the people of your country the truths that you see during your stay in Afghanistan and tell them that you see the reality of Islam in Afghanistan. Tell them that the people of Afghanistan are burning in the fire of war at the enemy's provocation and that they thirst for peace and security. The rule of Islam is in power in Afghanistan and the programs of the Republic of Afghanistan are being put into practice in full conformity with the principles of Islam. The activities take place in all the judicial courts and prosecutor's offices in accordance with Islamic law and the country's Constitution.

Brothers in religion, esteemed guests, and dear compatriots. Fully believing that Islam is the religion of unity, cooperation, peace, progress, and [word indistinct] of morale and material and that the war and fratricide between Muslims is blameworthy and very undesirable, we have taken many steps to ensure peace and the implementation of the national reconciliation policy in this country.

We believe the war cannot solve any problem and because of this, we have expressed our readiness for talks and dialogue with the opposition many times. On the occasion of this great event, on this auspicious day, and in honor of the dignitaries attending this gathering, I declare that we are ready to talk with the opposition to end the war and establish peace. We will meet in Afghanistan or anywhere in the world the opposition wants. We are ready to talk with the opposition in Mecca, the holy place of the Muslim world where the Qibla and Ka'bah are found, provided the state of Saudi Arabia agrees to serve as host country. We do this to reach the lofty cause of ensuring real peace in light of the Koran's tenets and the words and deeds of the prophet, which is for the pleasures of God and in the interest of his creatures.

Esteemed ulema and guests, the title of the work of the conference and its commencement on the celebration of the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, and his family, bring it success. [passage omitted]

The Government of Afghanistan, loyal to the principle of the Islamic tradition of its people, uses all its resources to establish peace and national reconciliation. We hope the conference participants and all the world's Muslims will help their Afghan brothers in bringing peace to the country. You, who are guests of the Afghan people, can become familiar with our religious traditions and culture. I wish you success in fulfilling the work of this useful gathering. Success comes from God.

## Najibullah Releases 'a Number of Criminals'

*LD2110174188 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Oct 88*

[Text] President Najibullah has remitted the remaining term of imprisonment of a number of criminals held in the capital and the provinces on the auspicious anniversary of the birth of the Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him and his family, in accordance with Paragraph 8, Article 75 of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan.

The office of the Presidency, having mentioned these points, said the decree on the release of the prisoners has been sent to the relevant authorities.

## Rebels Reject Najibullah Offer of Mecca Talks

*BK2310100088 Hong Kong AFP in English 0939 GMT 23 Oct 88*

[Excerpt] Kabul, Oct 23 (AFP)—Afghan President Najibullah has called on leaders of the opposition mujahidin to meet for talks on national reconciliation in the Muslim holy city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia, officials said here Sunday. But the offer was swiftly rejected by the leading Afghan rebel alliance in Peshawar, Pakistan, where mujahidin groups have headquarters.

Speaking at the opening of a three-day Islamic conference here, Mr. Najibullah said: "We are prepared to negotiate here or elsewhere, and if the Saudi Government agrees we will meet in Mecca."

Mr. Najibullah has frequently offered to meet the mujahidin for peace talks on any level and at any place, but observers in Kabul said it was the first time he had specifically proposed Mecca as the venue.

In Peshawar, the Afghan resistance was unmoved. "We do not want talks with the puppet government in Kabul. We want to talk with the Soviet Union directly," said a spokesman for Burhanuddin Rabbani, current chairman of the seven-party alliance.

"Najibullah's days are numbered and he knows it," spokesman Mas'ud Khalili told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, describing the proposal as "propaganda." "I do not even know if he would be allowed to go to Mecca since he is a communist," he added.

No Saudi representative was at the conference in Kabul which opened Saturday, bringing together Muslim representatives from Eastern Europe, Spain, Portugal, Indonesia, India, Libya, Iraq and the Soviet Union. [passage omitted]

## Defense Ministry Defector Details Soviet Status

*BK2310115488 Hong Kong AFP in English 1139 GMT 23 Oct 88*

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 23 (AFP)—The number of Soviet personnel working at the Afghan Defense Ministry has not been reduced despite a U.N.-mediated Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, a former ministry official who has defected said Sunday [23 October].

"Despite the Soviet troop withdrawal the number of Soviet advisers in different departments of the Ministry of Defence has not been reduced," said Brigadier 'Abdullah Mangal, a former deputy director at the ministry's Construction Department who defected to the rebels recently.

Speaking in the northwestern Pakistani city of Peshawar, Mr. Mangal said that "only a few (Soviet) doctors have gone from the Academy of Sciences." Mr. Mangal accused the Soviet personnel of acting "as officers and commanders rather than advisers."

At an address given at the Afghan Information and Documentation Centre, a group close to the rebels, Mr. Mangal said he thought that less than half of the Soviet troops stationed in Afghanistan had left the country. Soviet forces were stationed at 315 military posts and bases in Afghanistan, he added.

The former Defense Ministry official estimated that there were nearly 25,000 Soviet soldiers deployed in areas around Kabul.

He said the next phase of the Soviet pullout, scheduled to be completed by February 15, would center around Herat, a large city in the northwest. "It seems that in the next step Soviet soldiers will withdraw from Herat and other western regions," he said.

The second-largest Soviet military base in Afghanistan is located in the town of Shindand, some 100 kilometres (62 miles) south of Herat.

Mr. Mangal also said that Khalq, the toughest of the two factions in the bitterly divided Afghan communist party, had gained the upper hand in the Army. "The officers are badly demoralised and many members of the communist party are trying to escape," he said. "Many also cooperate with the mujahidin."

The Afghan Information and Documentation Centre said it had received reports from Kabul that 250 members of the communist Parcham faction of former President Babrak Karmal were arrested in the Afghan capital last week.

## Kabul Details Armed Forces, Rebel Operations

### 2 Arab 'Advisers' Killed

*LD2110173388 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Oct 88*

[Excerpt] Two Arab advisers who were helping the so-called Hezb-e Eslami extremist group in Alingar District and who were on their way to Pakistan, were killed in the Chapa Dara region by the Harakat group. The Harakat group robbed these foreign advisers of their money and cameras. [passage omitted]

### Weekly 'Mopping Up' Operations

*LD2110200788 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 21 Oct 88*

[Text] This week, the units and companies of the Armed Forces, in continuation of their mopping up operations to ensure peace and tranquillity in the country, crushed 20 irreconcilable extremists groups in Qandahar, Konduz, Paktia, and Herat Provinces. As a result of these combat operations a total of 292 of the enemies of peace and tranquility, including 4 of their ringleaders and 4 Americans and Pakistanis, were crushed; 240 were injured; and 12 were arrested.

In connection with the activities of the Armed Forces in these provinces the BAKHTAR military section writes: The units and companies of the Armed Forces, the guardians of peace and tranquillity who enjoy the comprehensive support of our peace-loving compatriots, have crushed the extremist warmongering groups during the current week who were disrupting peace and tranquillity by resorting to destructive, anti-Islamic actions in Daman, Arghandab, and Maywand Districts, the subdistrict of Takhteh Pol, the area around Qandahar city, the Shir Khan-(Bander) road and Chichka District, [placenames indistinct] regions of (Chelchenar) in Konduz Province, along the Jalalabad-Towr Kham highway, the area around Gardeyz city, and certain districts of Herat and Paktia Provinces.

In the course of these activities, 10 surface-to-surface missile launchers, 7 mortars, 4 rocket launchers, 5 DShK's, 2 radio sets, and 39 hideouts and strongholds of these criminals have been destroyed. In addition, 2 missiles systems with 61 shells, 4 rocket launchers with 100 shells, 6 heavy machineguns, 4 radio sets, 34 anti-vehicle mines, dozens of rounds of ammunition, and a large amount of explosives have been seized by the Armed Forces.

Also during the current week, as a result of efforts by the Armed Forces, 2 arms and ammunition depots belonging to the destructive extremists were discovered in Sorkh Rud District, Nangarhar Province, and Sarowbi District, Kabul Province, and 41 surface-to-surface missiles, 30 recoilless gun shells, 1 rocket launcher, together with a large amount of light weapons have been seized from these depots.

Similarly, during this period, as a result of the efforts of the State Security Ministry, a 75mm gun and three radio sets were discovered and seized in Paghman District, and 23 surface-to-surface missiles, which were ready to be launched on the residential areas of Kabul city, were discovered and seized in Shakar Darreh District.

The gains of the Armed Forces during the current week show that our Armed Forces have a greater high combat morale and high discipline than ever before and that those warmongering extremists and enemies of the homeland, who want to continue the destructive, anti-Islamic action contrary to the will of our peace-loving people, will fall under the crushing blows of our Armed Forces.

### 48 'Extremists' Killed

*LD2210060088 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Text] Kabul, Oct. 21, BAKHTAR—Forty-eight extremists were killed and fifteen others wounded during the mopping up operations of the Armed Forces of the country carried out in Qandahar and Paktia Provinces on Thursday [20 October]. Twelve extremists were captured and their armaments including a recoilless cannon, a large-calibre heavy machine gun, a vehicle and five strongholds of war mongers were destroyed during the operations.

According to another report from Paktia Province three criminal extremists belonging to the Gulbuddin band were killed when their tractor loaded with arms and ammunition hit a mine planted by another extremist rival group in the Ahmad Khezer Kheyl District of that province.

Ten mortar shells were discovered and transferred at the end of mopping up operation of the Armed Forces carred out in the Deh Sabz District of Kabul Province today.

## 2 Killed in Missile Attack on Konduz

*LD2210144288 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Text] Today at 0800, criminal extremist groups attacked residential areas in Konduz with 40 surface-to-surface missiles and 30 mortar shells. According to a BIA military section report, 2 compatriots, including a child, were martyred, and 14 others, including 6 children, were injured. A number of houses were destroyed or damaged.

## Islamabad Notes Recent Mujahidin Operations

### Administrative Body in Konarha

*BK2210142088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin have set up an administrative council to look after the administration of Konarha Province. According to the AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY, security and justice committees have been made responsible for settling the interrelated affairs of the Afghan mujahidin and local inhabitants. Ghulam Rabbani has been appointed as the head of the council as well as governor of the province. Similarly, Muhammad Shah has been appointed governor of Takhar Province. The news agency has also reported that all security posts set up by the Kabul regime in Konarha have either been captured by the mujahidin or abandoned by the Kabul regime forces.

### Kabul Regime Plane Shot Down

*BK2210031588 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin have shot down a Kabul administration's plane near Gardeyz in Paktia Province, killing all on board. The mujahidin also attacked military posts in (Karajin) near Kabul, killing a number of Kabul soldiers. Thirty-six Kabul soldiers defected to the mujahidin with arms and ammunition in (Zarmandi) area in Khowst.

According to other reports, the mujahidin carried out several operations in (Behar), Kohistan, and Jalalabad areas in Nangarhar Province, killed about 68 Kabul soldiers, and captured 20.

### Pressure on Qandahar Intensifies

*BK2310155288 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Oct 88*

[Excerpt] According to reports from Afghanistan, the mujahidin have intensified their pressure on the so-called security belt around Qandahar and destroyed several military posts there. The last post captured by the mujahidin yesterday was (Koh Kotal). Earlier, the mujahidin seized (Chahel Bina) military camp, only 2 km away from Qandahar city. The camp, situated on a mountain, is also a major oil depot. The mujahidin attacked Qandahar airport yesterday, setting fire to a helicopter gunship and destroying a bomber and a military transport plane. [passage omitted]

### Airport Under 'Complete Siege'

*BK2410083288 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 24 Oct 88*

[Text] In Afghanistan, mujahidin are reported to have cut off the link between Qandahar City and cantonment by capturing the highway on Friday [21 October] last. According to one report, Qandahar airport is in complete siege from all sides by mujahidin who have been attacking its installations. As a result of constant shelling, an oil dump close to the airport caught fire in which 50 Kabul troops were killed and injured. The report adds that the mujahidin are mounting pressure on the airport.

Another report says the mujahidin shot down a helicopter gunship near (Mukarran) on Kabul-Qandahar highway when it was passing the mujahidin positions in the area.

## Further Details on Major Offensive on Airport

*BK2210121988 Hong Kong AFP in English 1210 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Text] Quetta, Pakistan, Oct 22 (AFP)—Afghan rebels Saturday were preparing a major offensive on Qandahar airport after capturing an important security post nearby, resistance sources here said.

They said 2,200 guerrillas from various mujahidin groups had attack the Torkotol security post on Friday, forcing Afghan Government troops to flee to the airport 10 kilometers (six miles) away.

The rebels, who suffered nine dead and 41 wounded in the fighting, found 30 bodies when they entered the security post. They also captured five tanks, 10 trucks, 56 heavy weapons and 74 light weapons, according to the sources.

Government warplanes later bombed the captured post, destroying three tanks, a 16-barrel rocket launcher and a rebel truck, the sources said.

But the guerrillas went on to take up positions in the Taj Muhammad Karez area, where they were planning a big attack on Qandahar airport seven kilometres (four miles) away, the sources said.

# India

## Diplomatic Relations With Morocco Restored

*BK2110132588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 21 Oct 88*

[Text] India and Morocco have decided to restore diplomatic relations with immediate effect. Announcing this, an official spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi today that India has agreed to the restoration of diplomatic ties at Morocco's request. It may be recalled that the diplomatic relations with India were broken off by Morocco 3 years ago following India's recognition of Sarahwi Arab Democratic Republic.

### Assam Ministers Submit Resignations 22 Oct

*BK2210074388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Text] All Assam ministers, excepting two, submitted their resignations this morning to enable the chief minister, Mr P.K. Mahanta, to reconstitute his ministry. The resignations were submitted after a meeting of the Council of Ministers at Dispur. The move follows a suggestion given to this effect by the Asom Ghana Parishad Legislature party at its last meeting in August. The two ministers who have not submitted their resignations are the home minister, Mr B.K. Phukan and the PWD [Public Works Department] minister, Mr Atul Bora.

The chief minister told our Guwahati correspondent that a new ministry will be sworn in tomorrow morning. He, however, declined to the view of the size of the new ministry. [sentence as heard] The present Council of Ministers has a strength of 28 with 17 cabinet ministers.

### 7 New Ministers Inducted 23 Oct

*BK2310090188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 23 Oct 88*

[Excerpt] In Assam, seven new ministers have been inducted into the Prafulla Kumar Mahanta ministry. The Assam and Meghalaya governor, Mr Bhisma Narain Singh, administered the oath of office and secrecy to four cabinet and three ministers of state at a function in Raj Bhavan [governor's residence] in Guwahati this morning. [passage omitted]

### Trade Union Leader Shot Dead in Punjab

*BK2210075388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Text] A veteran trade union leader, Mr Nakhtar Singh Dhaliwal, was shot dead by terrorists at his native village, Badnikhurd, near Moga last night. The Punjab Roadways and Road Transport Corporation employees are observing complete hartal [strike] against the gunning down of the trade union leader. Bus service from Moga to all other destinations remained suspended. The Trade Union Council held a big rally at Moga protesting against the killing.

### Security Forces Kill 5 'Hardcore Terrorists'

*BK2210032388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Text] In Punjab, five terrorists have been killed in encounters with the security forces. Two hardcore terrorists ambushed a police patrolling party near village Jalalpur in Amritsar District. The terrorists were killed, when the police party returned the fire. The terrorists have been identified as Jaspal Singh and Malkiat Singh Madd. Two terrorists were killed in another encounter in the same district, when a naka [patrol] party challenged them. Some terrorists, who shot dead a shopkeeper, were chased by the security forces. In the encounter which followed, one terrorist was killed while the other escaped. Arms and ammunition has been seized from the killed terrorist. In Faridkot District, terrorists shot dead a farmer.

### Grant of Citizenship to Sri Lankan Indians Hailed

*BK1910091588 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 15 Oct 88 p 11*

[Editorial: "A Welcome Step"]

[Text] The Sri Lankan Government should be complimented on its decision to grant immediate citizenship to all the stateless people of Indian origin. The proposed legislation is expected to complete the process that was initiated in 1964 by the Sirimavo-Shastri agreement. Even in normal times administrative and political hurdles stood in the way of settling the citizenship question which has been a carry-over from the colonial period. During the ethnic conflict the issue needed deft handling and that was why no attempt was made to implement the 1986 legislation pertaining to citizenship. What has prompted the Jayewardene Government to take a decision in favour of the stateless is obviously the political importance of the Tamils of Indian origin who have not sided with the Sri Lankan Tamils in the ethnic conflict.

Among other things, the threat from the Rural Industries Development minister, Mr M. Thondaman, who is also the leader of the Ceylon Workers' Congress, that he will retire from public life if the problem of the stateless is not resolved immediately, seems to have worked. Even if the Sinhalese hawks are against the decision, the UNP knows that it cannot afford to lose the support of the Tamils of Indian origin who are a million. It will be unwise for the UNP to antagonise Mr Thondaman and his followers. Though the Government's decision is political, President Jayewardene has shown courage in taking it at this juncture when any move in favour of the Tamils is likely to be resented by a large section of the Sinhalese.

The citizenship issue has two aspects in which both Colombo and New Delhi have to fulfil their commitments. Whereas the grant of citizenship to the stateless is the responsibility of Colombo, repatriation of a section of them to India is New Delhi's commitment. Both processes have been going on simultaneously but on the basis of the agreements between the two countries, 80,000 more people are to be repatriated and 2,31,000 [as published] more people to be given Sri Lanka citizenship. It is significant that without raising the question of repatriation, Colombo has decided to go ahead with the granting of citizenship. The Tamils of Indian origin deserve this gesture. What impact Colombo's decision will have on the current strife in Sri Lanka cannot be gauged at this stage.

## Iran

### Musavi-Ardebili Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

*LD2110193088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1258 GMT 21 Oct 88*

[Second Friday prayers sermon by Musavi-Ardebili, president of the Supreme Judicial Council, at Tehran University on 21 October—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the second sermon, I want to discuss and say a few words on two issues. The first issue concerns the peace talks, and the second reconstruction.

Concerning the peace talks, as we and the whole world know, since the day Iran accepted the resolution it has not changed its policy. It has accepted Resolution No 598 and has given the UN secretary general and Security Council every cooperation. All of Iraq's dilly-dallying, time-wasting, deviant behavior, excuses, and procrastination are in no way justifiable to us, to the world, or to anyone looking at the issue objectively.

In the beginning they said: This is a tactic,'Iran will never agree, Iran will not make peace, Iran cannot live in peace, Iran cannot live without war. Well, all that is over. Even if it were an irrelevant excuse, it is nevertheless over. They were lying, we did agree to cooperate.

Who benefits from all this delay? The POW's? The world? The region? Iraq? Who? Why are they not moving along? We ask the United Nations, its secretary general and Security Council: How is it that the world, which thirsted for peace, says nothing to the one who is placing obstacles in the way of peace, sabotaging the cease-fire, making excuses every day, and continuing to shuffle the articles of the resolution? Why are they not using the means at their disposal to apply pressure?

We are trying to fathom how Iraq benefits from the prisoners's remaining in bondage, the Army staying on alert, the borders being constantly watched by the two sides. In our opinion, it can only have one reason, and all these excuses and raising irrelevant issues leading nowhere. The reason is that the committee to determine the aggressor will not be formed. This is part of the resolution; the resolution cannot be torn to pieces.

If this man is not afraid of the committee's being formed, and if he is sure he was not the aggressor, why is he placing obstacles in the way? The world also knows that he has accepted the cease-fire, that he does not consider benefits him, that the return to international borders is not important to him. Discussion of differences between two neighboring countries is normal. What worries the Iraqi side and brings hope to Iran is the formation of the committee to determine the aggressor. [chanting from the crowd] [passage omitted]

A combatant, a hero, and a committed Muslim of integrity, a devout and responsible Muslim arrived at the border between Israel and Lebanon and carried out a heroic act [19 October suicide car-bomb attack on Israel convoy near Metulla, southern Lebanon]. The day after the event, the United States condemned that same worshipper of martyrdom, calling out in pain and shedding crocodile tears for Israel. Those who used to say so many things about Iran never uttered any word of praise for the Lebanese combatant who carried out such a heroic act for his homeland, for Islam and the Koran, for honor and glory. Not only did they not praise him, but they did not even condemn Israel for its actions.

In any case, we are not pleased or content with tactics that delay progress in the peace talks or with the continued procrastination. We further declare that all these delays cannot change our desire to live in peace once our leader has decided that it is fitting for us to do so. They should not believe that delays will end Iran's patience or that Iran will disrupt everything that has been arranged by turning away from the United Nations and the Security Council. We will see how long they can delay. Whatever the delay, the day the committee convenes to declare to the world which party was the aggressor in the war is coming soon. We have no doubt about it.

As to the question of reconstruction, praise be to God, the movement seen in this connection is heart-warming. This movement is receiving attention at universities, in the government, in the Majlis, in the three branches of state and in the (?consultants) to these three branches. It is very pleasing, and we pray to God that we may attain desirable results. I must point out a few details in this connection. Some are included in the plans, while some are not.

Among those included concerns public participation in the task of reconstruction. As far as we know, all those who have invested their time and thoughts to the tasks of planning for the reconstruction have unanimously declared that the public must participate in this venture. As we continued the war with the blessing of public participation, we must allow the public to play a very effective role in reconstruction as well.

Now, what should the public do? What role should it play? Some of these questions have been clarified. For example, in relatively comfortable situations, the importation of sensitive goods by the public should be allowed. Whether this should pertain to 100, or 80, or 50 items is not yet clear, but what is clear is the essence of the matter. The public should be free to utilize its resources and to obtain nontransferrable foreign exchange in return for exporting goods. This may free us from our predicament. God willing, it will not be long before a list of approved import goods is published. This is a good move, but is this all?

Should we allow the public to reconstruct the war-torn zones and cities? Should we allow it to run those industries that can be managed by the public? Should we allow them to run industry, agriculture, services, or what? At the moment, no limits have been set. Now that all are unanimous in their words of support for the public's participation and effective role, God willing, we will know the limits of public participation and the public's means for and areas of participation.

One of the priorities concerns the families of the martyrs, MIA's, invalids, and POW's who have been singled out by his excellency, the imam. God willing, a decision on this will be made soon. Although some time ago the courts and revolutionary courts of justice passed judgments, with the cooperation of the esteemed Martyrs' Foundation with regard to confiscated and returned property and the like, they have not been able to fully address this important issue. It may be said that this is one part of a true move.

His excellency the imam has given his approval, which received the support of the three branches of government, for all property of this kind to be made available to the esteemed families by some method rather than being dispersed to various parties. As I noted, such moves are parts of the same approach. A commission to study this issue will soon be set up.

One issue I want to stress today, and I hope that my brothers and sisters will pay attention to it, is this: During the war, because of the war, because of necessities, of shortages, sometimes certain things were done, sometimes institutions, sometimes foundations, sometimes whatever.... [sentence as heard] There was a war. Circumstances dictated it. In the past, certain practices may have been of immediate advantage. Even if they did not impair administrative procedures, job security, or other kinds of security, they did disrupt them and such things must gradually come to an end. From now on we must seriously implement the law with respect to offenders. [crowd chants in support]

At the airport, special items and ordinary items have been allowed to come and go, but from now this policy must be changed. Items must be inspected, regardless of the foundation or institution to which they are attached. At one time we said: This is a time of war; let these things pass for the moment under the heat of the war. Taking equipment and tools from factories destroys the security of the factories. We would, on the one hand, say to the people: Come, invest, run a factory. On the other hand, someone would come and take away his heavy machinery, putting it aside.

We cannot draw a line around piece of land and say: It is ours. The country has its methods, it has laws, it has regulations. If anyone can go and take any piece of land, take a factory, import whatever they want, if everyone wants to do whatever they want.... [sentence as heard] Dear brothers, some people believe that law means no law. That is really their [word indistinct]. They believe that the laws tie people's hands and force them into drawing up regulations, paper-shuffling, and other things; that laws restrict freedom of movement. A person should just ignore them and advance. This may yield immediate benefits, but it damages the country. Nothing will hold together. If there is no security, people will have no confidence; they will become dissatisfied.

Look, what year did his eminence the imam, our honorable leader, name as the year of law? We were still in the early days of the revolution in 1980-82. We still had not had time to tend to our affairs when the imam graciously said: The line is the line of the law; advance on the basis of the law! However, the war began and disrupted everything. A number of realities, a number of excuses became (?the aim). The situation was not properly based on law, resulting in confusion. During reconstruction we must, whoever we may be, return to the law.

If we do not have laws, then, God be praised, there is the honorable Islamic Majlis waiting to pass laws. If we do have laws, abide by them. There were some matters that the judiciary overlooked. Things were done in the name of the judiciary. However, there is no need to discuss such things here. During reconstruction, however, we must first establish security in the country. The establishment of security in the country means to return to the law, to observe it strictly.

Let me say something else: One group has begun to return to Iran. The emigres are returning to Iran. One group is waiting to see what will happen. They keep writing letters; they keep asking questions; they send people. They say: Shall we return? Shall we stay where we are? Do you want us? Do you reject us? Another group has grown tired of waiting. They have begun returning to Iran. We never said that you should not come to Iran. Never! We did not have a right to say such a thing. They are Iranians. They have birth certificates issued in Iran. They are Iranian nationals. They come under the Iranian flag.

They must return and we welcome their return. There may be specialists and great thinkers among them. Of course, I should also say to you: We do have a complaint against those people, but we will not complain. We have the right to say to them: Why did you go? We must ask them without emotion: Why did you go? You went, you all went. One group was afraid of the war and left. You were afraid of the war and left. Now you are coming back, but (?others) stayed. They stayed despite the missiles. Their relatives were martyred. They went to the front, they fought. When you come back, do not brag. At least say to these people: Thank you, gentlemen. Thank you, sisters.

You can tell us that we defended the country, may God help you. You can say that you were afraid to be drafted, you were afraid to be sent to the front, or you feared the missiles might hit you. [passage omitted]

That is one point. Then there were others who did not like the way of life in Iran. Well, the television does not show the same pictures it used to. The old places are not on their accustomed streets. There are neither seaside beaches nor evening parties. Now those who want to return home may do so; it is their home, their own country. It is their right to return. However, they must know that those things are not here. God willing, those things never will return to Iran. [crowd chants approval]

The returnees are those who left the country, but encountered hardships. Now they say this television is good. I am not saying that our television is very good, but in any case, those un-Islamic things no longer exist. So the returnees must live like everybody else who lives with pride in this country. The returnees must come back to live under Islamic norms. This is very good.

There is one group among the returnees whose position is somewhat difficult. They are worried because they misappropriated funds and harmed other people. They, too, must return; they must definitely return. They must come back to return funds to the owners. Why do they not return? They are advised to return to surrender to the establishment, However, I give my word of honor that, God willing, even if they are not present verdicts will be issued in their absence. However, if they return, then the verdict on them will be issued in their presence. They will be able to defend their cases. They may truly have valid case to defend. Absence is proof of guilt.

Let them return if they want to. If they are acquitted, God willing, so much the better. If they are found guilty, God forbid, well then, they are guilty. They are covered by the criminal amnesty. However, if they have abrogated the rights of the people, if someone has committed murder and escaped, then on his return he must be put on trial because he is a murderer.

In short, when we tell you to return home, when we tell you that this is your own country, your own home, your own district, and you are my equal, it does not mean that if someone has a blace record that the record is discarded. That is not so, but we can give our word that you will be dealt with in accordance with the norms of justice.

Recently, a letter was sent to the house of the imam. It was then routed to me. A gentleman had written: O people, I live in my house and suddenly the revolutionary authorities advertised in the press that my house is for sale. He asked in what religion and faith could such a thing happen. I ordered that the case be investigated. I asked who he was. They told me he was a member of SAVAK, and that he had harmed the people, and that he had been tried. He was convicted of financial and civil crimes, as well as some penal crimes, and the verdict had to be enforced.

Now, expectations must not be raised beyond reason. However, no one will be unhappy if he returns to Iran. He is coming to his own country to live among the people of his own faith.

## Velayati Responds to 'Positive' Saudi Moves

*LD2310184688 Tehran IRNA in English 1830 GMT 23 Oct 88*

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 23, IRNA—The Islamic Republic will reciprocate moves by Saudi Arabia towards improving relations strained after the Mecca tragedy in 1987, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said.

Meanwhile a Tehran newspaper welcomed Saudi Arabia's move to stop media attacks against Iran and move towards better relations.

"We will respond positively to any real positive step by (Saudi) Arabia towards ending the problems between the two countries," Velayati said in a interview published today in the Persian daily RESALAT.

"Of course there have been difficulties which have led to a break in relations and their removal would better the exiting climate," he added.

The TEHRAN TIMES English-language daily while seeing the Saudi decision to end press attacks against Tehran as a positive step, called on Riyadh to put pressure on Iraq for a speedy implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598.

"In the past... Iran-Saudi Arabia relations witnessed bitter periods. These now need to be put on a better footing through positive and joint political moves," the paper said in its editorial.

Last Wednesday, Saudi Arabia's King Fahd ordered the country's media to end their campaign against the Islamic republic.

In the interview with RESALAT, Velayati said Iran should wait and see whether Saudi Arabia's decision would be put into action.

Relations between the two countries sharply deteriorated after the massacre of over 400 pilgrims, mostly Iranians, by Saudi security forces during the hajj pilgrimate in Mecca in the summer of 1987.

Diplomatic ties were cut and Riyadh blocked the participation of Iranian pilgrims in this year's hajj.

"King Fahd has certainly adopted a positive diplomacy when he called last Thursday on the Saudi mass media to stop attacks on the Islamic Republic," the TEHRAN TIMES said. "Perhaps some negative impressions wrongly made on Iran's former policies gave Iran's enemies a chance to attach a 'terroristic' identity to all acts intended to hail a 'return to Islam.'"

But the paper said Iran should wait for further moves by Saudi Arabia, namely to push its ally Iraq towards a settlement in its war against Iran.

"Saudi Arabia's pressurizing of Iraq for the rapid implementation of (U.N. peace) Resolution 598 can... count as a positive and constructive" move, the paper said.

"By reconsidering its former policy toward Iran, Saudi Arabia should make enough moves to convince public opinion in Iran to accept the expansion of bilateral ties.

"Regarding the Mecca tragedy in particular Saudi Arabia should take such positive stand as to create a new atmosphere that most problems between the two will see a settlement."

Velayati told the RESALAT newspaper that relations with Kuwait had "taken a positive turn in recent weeks" with the re-opening of the Kuwaiti Embassy in Tehran after about a year following event in Mecca and the U.S. naval presence in the Persian Gulf.

### Foreign Ministry Condemns Israeli Raids
*LD2210161388 Tehran IRNA in English 1545 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 22, IRNA—The Iranian Foreign Ministry condemned Zionist air attacks on south Lebanon on Friday and termed them as part of a conspiracy to further exacerbate the critical situation in Lebanon, and to support its partition.

"This barbaric and insane act by the Zionist regime's army which was in response to the bold and martyrdom-seeking operations of the Lebanese revolutionary Muslims, reveals the Zionist regime's great fear of the escalating struggles against it in occupied Palestine and south Lebanon," it said in a statement Saturday.

Thirteen people were martyred and 52 others wounded after Israeli warplanes attacked several areas in south Lebanon Friday.

The Foreign Ministry also expressed support for the uprising in occupied Palestine and called on Muslims and their governments as well as non-aligned states to pay more attention to the recent developments in Lebanon.

### Commentary on Camps Bombing
*LD2210143388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1052 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Yesterday the Zionist regime's aircraft violated Lebanese airspace for the 17th and 18th times during the past 2 months and embarked on the bombing of some regions in south Lebanon, including the positions of Hizballah forces and Palestinian camps. The savage attack, which has been described as the most vicious of its kind, led to the death and injury of dozens of people, including a number of women and children. Two hospitals were destroyed and some residential areas also sustained damage during the brutal attack.

Although the Zionist regime has claimed, as usual, that there was no connection between the attack and the martyr-seeking actions of a Lebanese Hizballah fighter, nevertheless the attack occured when both factions ruling occupied Palestine had declared they would avenge the death of Israeli soldiers.

News circles affiliated with global arrogance, while reflecting the news of the Israeli airforce's savage attack against south Lebanon, described it as an act aimed at what they call the suppression of terrorist centers. The martyr-seeking act of a Lebanese Hizballah fighter occured at a time when the Zionist regime stands accused of being one of the main causes of crisis in Lebanon and of being involved in the conspiracy to partition that contry. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, bearing in mind the supportthat the world's centers of arrogance give to the Zionist regime, it is unlikely that any positive measure will be taken in the face of the Zionist regime's air attacks against Lebanon or even that regime's possible military invasion of that country. However, Lebanese Muslim fighters, just as they themselves have warned, may respond to those crimes inside Israel, or, in order to exact revenge or even to prevent the Zionist regime from repeating such crimes, they may put pressure on the true backers of that regime.

### Aqaba Meeting 'Serving West's Interest'
*LD2410024088 Tehran IRNA in English 1732 GMT 23 Oct 88*

[Text] Athens, Oct. 23, IRNA—The current chain of talks in Jordan and Iraq point to the formation of a new alliance aimed at settling the most pressing Middle East issue at the cost of betraying the Palestinian people: the wide recognition of the Zionist regime.

After consultations with King Hassan of Morocco last Thursday, Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived Saturday in Cairo only to leave shortly with President Husni Mubarak.

They arrived in the Jordanian port of Aqaba where they held intensive tlks on a new Middle East peace strategy with King Husayn.

On Sunday 'Arafat and Mubarak arrived in Baghdad to consult with Saddam Husayn on an international Middle East peace conference and the PLO's plan to declare an independent Palestinian state and recognize the Zionist regime.

This new initiative is significant for its timing.

The Palestine National Council (PNC), the Palestinian parliament-in-exile, is to meet next month in Algiers to announce an independent Palestinian state. Both the U.S. and Israel will be witnessing elections to choose their leaders in November too.

Egyptian press reports say after two years of cool relations between King Husayn and 'Arafat, the Egyptian president had managed to bring both together and that all three agreed on the principle of an international peace conference.

In February 1986 Jordanian-PLO talks on a common approach to the Palestinian issue failed, leading to strained relations between the organization and Amman.

Three months ago King Husayn declared that Jordan was no longer responsible for the Israeli-occupied West Bank, a move seen by many as an attempt to undermine the Palestinian uprising.

The Palestinian intifadah going strong in its eleventh month is causing extreme anxiety in Arab capitals for its influence on their own Muslim populations.

It is said that the uprising has boosted the morale of the Islamic opposition in Jordan and Egypt. It is believed that the recent Algerian unrest also showed signs that it had been influenced by the intifadah.

Moreover, 'Arafat's secular PLO is losing ground to the rising Islamic resistance which is calling for the liberation of all occupied Palestine, not just the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The reactionary Arab regimes by supporting 'Arafat's move to declare an independent Palestinian state along side the Zionist entity hope to stop the intifadah from spreading in their own countries.

Egypt, Jordan and Iraq would be serving the West's interest by making such a move, guaranteeing the existence of Israel, created by the West in the heartland of the Islamic world.

Egypt is the only Arab country to have signed a peace treaty with Israel, while Jordanian King Husayn's talks with Israeli leaders on numerous occasion is an open secret.

Saddam Husayn's Iraq served the West well by launching a war on the Islamic revolution in Iran, and now it is arming and training the Israeli-backed Christian militias against Lebanses Muslims at a time when the country is passing through its worst constitutional crisis.

An Egyptian daily Saturday reported that the world's seven major industrial states had asked the International Monetary Fund to grant new loans to economically troubled Egypt—a price for Egypt's services to the West.

## Musavi Addresses Ground Forces Commanders

*LD2210153788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi attended a gathering of the commanders of the main units of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Ground Forces today. He stressed that, during the 8 years of the imposed war, the Army has demonstrated its capability and worth in defending the country and said: The Persian Gulf region's increasing importance and the need to resist the political, cultural, economic and military attacks of arrogant Eastern And western powers on the reality of the Islamic revolution, increase our Armed Forces' burden of responsibility for maintaining the integrity of the region. We must, therefore, have a strong and faithful army.

In another part of his speech he said: Concerning the providing for their needs, the Army and the IRGC must, above all, think of using the resources and facilities existing within the country. That does not mean that we should not use the advanced techniques and the experiences of the world's armies.

Concluding his remarks, the prime minister emphasized the importance of maintaining order and discipline in the army.

## Musavi Receives Al-Qadhdhafi Note on OPEC Quotas

*LD2310091488 Tehran IRNA in English 0800 GMT 23 Oct 88*

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 23, IRNA—Libyan leader, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, sent a message to Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi on violations of some members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) from their production quotas.

The message was handed over by the officer in charge of the Libyan Foreign Liaison Relations Committee here, Al-Mahdi Imbirash, Saturday.

The prime minister said Iran's stand is very clear in this regard and has always urged OPEC members to observe their quotas.

"It is clear that the excess production of the United Arab Emirates, Iraq and Saudi Arabia is the main cause for the oil price fall," he said.

Stressing expansion of Tehran-Tripoli ties he said the two countries could harmonize and strengthen their stands by utilising each other's experience in important international and regional issues.

Imbirash also informed Musavi of his relevant government's willingness to expand cooperation with Iran.

### Mahallati, Perez de Cuellar Discuss UN Resolution

*LD2210180188 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Text] Mohammad Ja'far Mahallati, permanent representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations, and Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar discussed the progress in implementing Resolution No 598 and the Security Council's role in that implementation.

According to a Central News Unit report, the UN Security Council, having heard issues raised by Mahallati, including his description of Iraq's efforts to dissect and change Resolution No 598, informed him that the New York negotiations were not the final word. He was told that talks will be conducted by a special representative who will discuss the date of the next negotiations with officials of the two sides. It was confirmed by Perez de Cuellar that the next Iran-Iraq negotiations under UN auspices must come about more quickly and be more substantive. He also noted that the UN Secretariat is making efforts to prepare for these negotiations.

### 'Leading Ayatollah' on Tolerating Criticism

*LD2310172688 Tehran IRNA in English 1505 GMT 23 Oct 88*

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 23, IRNA—A leading ayatollah Sunday called on government officials to tolerate criticism as a means for improving conditions.

Ayatollah 'Ali Meshkini, a leading theological teacher in Qom and the head of the Experts Assembly which will decide on the country's future leadership, also said no group should impose its views.

He made these points in a message to the gathering in Qom of Islamic student associations from Tehran University's Medical College and the Iran Medical Sciences College.

"We ask government leaders and officials in charge of the Islamic state to listen to criticisms, and listen well, and accept the good ones," Meshkini said.

"We believe if a society lacks honest and constructive criticism with guiding and reforming motives... that society will not reach excellence. It would be the same if the leaders of that society are not willing to accept criticism."

No group should consider its way of thinking as "revelation sent down from heaven," he said, adding: "There is nothing more oppressive than imposing something without reason and nothing can be more just that accepting the truth."

The ayatollah stressed on the strengthening of the scientific foundations of the universities. He said Iranian higher education centers should create such scientific and moral excellence as to attract foreigners in search of Islamic and secular knowledge. "That is the day when our revolution has been exported," he said.

### Reyshahri Assails Counterrevolution Groups

*NC2210082088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that Information Minister Mr Reyshahri, who has gone to the west of the country to study security affairs, stated in an interview: The alertness of the border inhabitants led to the recognition of mercenary elements of the terrorist monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq] grouplet and to the disgraceful failure of their blind acts.

The minister of information said: The peoples' role in defending the fruits of the Islamic revolution has always been a determining factor. The people should continue to be alert and monitor the activities of counterrevolution.

The minister of information, who was speaking to a Central News Unit correspondent in Ilam, discussed the situation of political groups within the country following the acceptance of Resolution No 598 and said: Any political group which is not comprised of foreign mercenaries and which does not seek to hatch plots is free to engage in healthy political activities. This explains why we do not have any confrontations with many of the non-religious groups. As long as they do not decide to hatch plots, they are free to pursue their political activities, and political activity in the country is contingent upon the absence of plots.

Emphasizing the people's sincere cooperation in the struggle against counterrevolution and against hireling elements, the minister of information said: The majority of the people, and especially the Kurds, have realized that counterrevolution cannot heal any of their ills and that only Islam and the Islamic system can resolve the issues of the various races and nationalities.

Referring to the victorious Mersad operations that routed the terrorist monafeqin group, the minister of information stated: It is fully perceived today that this hireling and treacherous group has been checkmated. The Mersad operations clearly showed that in addition to being spies and foreign hirelings and that the inter group organizations are corrupt, the monafeqin organization has become a pawn in the hands of the filthiest enemies of God and the people.

### Reyshahri Says Political Parties Free To Operate

*LD2210161788 Tehran IRNA in English 1605 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Text] Ilam, Oct. 22, IRNA—Political parties can be active in the Islamic Republic if they do not conspire against it, a senior minister said Saturday.

"Political parties can operate in the country on the condition that they don't hatch plots against it or create obstacles in its way," Information Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Mohammadi Reyshahri said. The minister did not give further details.

According to Article 26 of the Constitution parties are free as long as "they do not violate the principles of independence, liberty, national unity, Islamic standards and the foundation of the Islamic Republic."

In the last Majlis elections earlier this year most candidates stood as independents. Prominent political personalities in Tehran stood as candidates for two combatant clerical societies.

Since the dissolution of the Islamic Republic Party almost two years ago, no party has played a major role in the political scene.

## Pakistan

### Bomb Blast in Islamabad Bus Terminal Wounds 8

*BK2310171888 Hong Kong AFP in English 1707 GMT 23 Oct 88*

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 23 (AFP)—Eight people were wounded, four seriously, when a bomb went off at a crowded bus stand here late Sunday, hospital sources said. The bomb, placed in a passenger van coming from Rawalpindi, went off at the main Aabpara bus terminal, located in the heart of Islamabad. The van was waiting for passengers to the nearby shrine of Barri Imam. All eight victims were passengers.

According to police at the scene, the blast, which completely destroyed the vehicle, could have been caused by a timed device. The explosion occurred at 8:02 p.m. (1502 GMT) and was heard several kilometers away, witnesses said. Doctors said at least two people were suffering from total deafness while two were partially deafened as a result of the explosion. One of the wounded was reported in critical condition.

The blast took place amid increased security in the capital and a government drive to curb terrorism blamed on Afghan Government agents. Police said they believed the bomb was placed in the vehicle by a passenger who may have gotten off shortly before the van reached the Aabpara market area, which was crowded with commuters.

### 300 Checkpoints Set Up in Karachi for Elections

*BK2210034888 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Text] Three hundred checkpoints have been set up in various places of Karachi to strengthen peace and security and to hold peaceful elections. Of these, 150 posts have been manned jointly by police and Armed Forces personnel in District East and 50 each in Districts West, Central, and South. Besides these, 10 posts have been set up on all roads leading to the city and radio contact has been established between these posts and other posts and with their headquarters.

The Karachi division commissioner told newsmen in Karachi yesterday evening that these steps have been taken in addition to the existing security arrangements aimed at creating a sense of security among the people. The law and order situation is rapidly returning to normal and there were no reports of any untoward incidents in the past few days. Curfew now is being imposed only for 7 hours, from 2300, and a decision will be made within a few days to further relax it or to lift it completely.

The commissioner said many persons involved in the recent disturbances in the city have been taken into custody; their cases will be handed over to the special courts, which have been set up recently.

### Envoy Calls for Regional Approach to Nuclear Issue

*BK2210095288 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Text] Pakistan has called for a regional approach in overcoming nuclear proliferation concerns on the Indo-Pakistan subcontinent as well as to achieve reduction in conventional arms.

Speaking in the debate on disarmament-related issues in the General Assembly's main committee at the United Nations, the Pakistan delegate, Mr Ahmad Kamal, reaffirmed Islamabad's commitment to the objective of nuclear nonproliferation. He said Pakistan did not possess nuclear weapons, nor did it have any intention of doing so. Pakistan is ready to accede to the nonproliferation treaty simultaneously with India and to mutual inspection of nuclear installations in each other's country.

On conventional weapons, the Pakistan delegate said the aim of regional disarmament process should be to establish a mutually acceptable military equilibrium among the regional states and to exclude the military presence of foreign forces.

### DAWN Urges Expansion of Nuclear Program

*BK2310120488 Karachi DAWN in English 5 Oct 88 p 7*

[Editorial: "Nuclear Power in the Energy Mix"]

[Text] Pakistan's energy sector does not present a very rosy picture. The country's power generation capacity is far below the national need. This has led to frequent loadshedding by WAPDA [Water and Power Development Authority] which is estimated to have caused losses in industrial production to the tune of Rs. [rupees] 50 billion this year. What is worse, the situation is unlikely to change much unless something drastic is done about it. Power demand has been growing at the rate of 11 per cent per annum and is expected to reach the level of over 25,000 MW at the turn of the century.

At present WAPDA and the KESC [Karachi Electric Supply Corporation] produce about 6,500 MW. But during the dry months, that is from January to May, when the water level in the rivers falls, hydroelectric power output is reduced by 1,900 MW. Conventional sources of energy cannot solve the problem any more. At present 52 per cent of our electricity needs are met by fossil fuels, 46 per cent by hydroelectric power and only two per cent from nuclear sources. This heavy dependence on oil, gas and coal does not speak of a happy situation since fossil fuels have their limits. Although some new oil sources have been tapped and the country is quite rich in coal deposits, their contribution in meeting the growing national energy demand can at best be modest in terms of quantity and quality.

Natural gas needs to be conserved for use in the production of fertiliser and as the basic raw material for the petrochemical industry which has vast scope for development and expansion. The indigenous fossil fuel output being limited, the bulk of the requirements have to be imported at a huge cost. Besides, their use does involve a serious problem of environmental pollution. Hydroelectric power generation can be expanded but its potential is not unlimited. At the most, it can produce 12,000 MW of hydroelectric power economically, and this too, would be subject to seasonal fluctuations, with production dropping sizably during winter months.

That leaves fuller development of nuclear energy as the only practical and feasible proposition for now and for the future. It is cost efficient, it is clean. And there are no limitations on its expansion as a basic source of power. Some advanced industrialised countries have established beyond doubt that nuclear energy can be developed sufficiently and at a reasonable cost to meet the growing electricity requirements. France, for instance, obtains 65 per cent of its total energy needs from nuclear reactors, Belgium gets 51 per cent and Finland 42 per cent.

If Pakistan has failed to make headway in its nuclear energy sector, the reasons are mainly political. Although the Government had drawn up a programme for setting up a chain of nuclear reactors for generation of energy, this did not materialise on account of the unwillingness, mainly under pressure, of outside powers to supply nuclear equipment to Pakistan. France reneged on the contract for the supply of a reprocessing plant a decade ago. Later, it also failed to honour an understanding for the delivery of a 900-MW nuclear plant for Chashma.

The United States, which has been implacably opposed to Pakistan's nuclear programme, has influenced other suppliers not to sell reactors or other nuclear equipment to Pakistan. The stand adopted by them vis-a-vis this country's peaceful atomic energy programme has been characterised by duplicity and lack of good faith. While professing their concern for nuclear non-proliferation, they have demanded that Pakistan sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT] and subject its nuclear installations to full-scope safeguards and inspection which are far more stringent than those prescribed by the IAEA. For its part, Islamabad has denied using its nuclear facilities for military purposes, as alleged in some Western quarters, and has offered to sign the NPT if India does the same.

While denying Pakistan access to the necessary equipment, the nuclear suppliers have felt no compunction about making reactors, fuel and heavy water available to India whose nuclear record is not as unblemished as New Delhi claims or its Western apologists would have us believe. No such myth can be sustained in the face of the so-called 1974 'peaceful' test explosion of a nuclear device in the Rajasthan desert, the acquisition of a nuclear-powered submarine, the deal with the US for the supply of super-computers which have a potential in the development of nuclear weapons, and many such developments. These do not seem to prick the nuclear conscience of some of the leading Western protagonists of nuclear non-proliferation.

The latest example of the nuclear powers' partisanship towards India is the agreement the Soviet Union is expected to sign for the supply to that country of two nuclear reactors on soft terms.

Considering Pakistan's urgent need for developing nuclear technology for power generation, it is important that the nuclear suppliers modify their approach. If for argument's sake we accept their concern for nuclear non-proliferation as genuine—though they have not displayed the same concern where Israel and South Africa are involved—it would be logical to ask them to prove their bona fides by working for the creation of a nuclear non-proliferation regime in South Asia rather than deny Pakistan the means for developing nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. This means their efforts should be directed towards India to get it to sign the NPT and agree to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free-zone in the region.

Pakistan's bona fides in the matter should not be doubted. Its need for nuclear power as a source of energy is self-evident and is privately acknowledged by even those who, for political and diplomatic reasons, choose to adopt a different stance. Pakistan's own option, where its pressing development needs are at stake, is quite obvious. But the nations which deny Pakistan access to nuclear technology for reasons of political expediency or under pressure should reconsider their stand in the light of the dictates of justice and fairness.

# Sri Lanka

## Presidential Election Set for 19 December

*BK2110144988 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1412 GMT 21 Oct 88*

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 21 Oct (LANKAPUVATH)—Sri Lanka's presidential elections will be held on 19 December 1988, official sources told LANKAPUVATH. They said nominations for the presidential poll will take place on November 10th.

## Council Election Postponement Demand Rejected

*BK2110161788 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Oct 88*

[Excerpt] The Sri Lankan president, Mr J.R. Jayewardene, has rejected an opposition demand for the postponement of the election to the northeastern provincial council. He told representatives of seven opposition parties in Colombo today that he is bound by the terms of the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement. The other demands of the seven parties, led by the main opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party, include dissolving of parliament and lifting of the emergency.

A joint statement issued by the national security minister, Mr Lalith Athulathmudali, and Tamil Congress leader, Mr Kumar Ponnambalam, said the government would state its position on the matter raised by the opposition parties at the next meeting to be held within a week.

It was officially announced in Colombo this evening that the presidential election would be held on the 19th of December. [passage omitted]

## LTTE Urges Boycott of Vote on Autonomy

*BK2310072888 Hong Kong AFP in English 0638 GMT 23 Oct 88*

[Text] Colombo, Oct 23 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's most powerful Tamil separatist group called Sunday for a boycott of next month's autonomy polls in the island's troubled Eastern Province. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in a statement issued from its London office urged voters to keep away from the polls and asked them not to forget the "brutal atrocities committed by the Indian occupation army." Elections to a semi-autonomous council uniting the current Tamil-dominated Northern Province with the multi-ethnic eastern region are due on November 19, in line with the July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord. Candidates in the northern region have been returned uncontested leaving balloting only in the Eastern Province.

The LTTE statement released to Western news agencies here described the electoral process in Tamil areas as a "mockery of democracy" and said the "manipulated elections" disregarded the political will of the people. "The manner in which the Government of India and the Government of Sri Lanka are conducting the electoral process in Tamil areas is undemocratic, fraudulent and unjust," the statement said. The group said it decided to boycott the polls since the peace accord, which sought to end a bloody Tamil separatist campaign, failed to secure the interests of the minority Tamil and Muslim communities.

A Muslim political party, the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress, is fielding candidates in the Eastern Province. Others contesting the elections are the ruling United National Party and the Ealam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), a former Tamil rebel group which has accepted the peace accord. All the seats in the Northern Province have gone to the EPRLF uncontested, giving the group a majority share of power in the northeast provincial council.

In an apparent reference to the EPRLF, the LTTE said the nominated candidates in the north were "self-centered opportunists who had no interest in the problems of Tamils and Muslims but were agents and mercenaries of India." The LTTE has vowed revenge on those contesting council elections and said "such traitors will not be forgiven." Provincial councils with greater autonomy than the previous urban councils have been set up in seven out of nine provinces since April. Northeast council elections were delayed due to continuing unrest in the area.

The LTTE was among five major Tamil rebel groups which initially accepted the peace pact, but later repudiated it prompting a major offensive by some 49,000 Indian troops last October to disarm the group. Since then, over 625 Indian soldiers and more than 2,000 suspected LTTE men have died in bitter fighting.

## Buddhist Leaders Call for Early Elections

*BK2310103088 Hong Kong AFP in English 0822 GMT 23 Oct 88*

[By Amal Jayasinghe]

[Excerpts] Colombo, Oct 23 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's Buddhist leadership urged the government Sunday to dissolve Parliament and hold early general elections in a bid to end political unrest in the island nation. The traditionally respected Buddhist hierarchy consisting of four leading monks expressed what they called their gravest concern at the "present dangerous and volatile situation" in the country. "There are many causes and the present situation is the result. Whatever it may be, the government has the greatest responsibility for establishing peace and stability," the monks said in a statement. They called for the immediate dissolution of Parliament and early general elections under a caretaker government.

The elections were necessary to bring about peace, they said. More than two-thirds of Sri Lanka's 16 million people practice Buddhism. [passage omitted]

A seven-party opposition alliance, including the main opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), had talks with Mr. Jayewardene on Friday to discuss 10 demands including the holding of early parliamentary balloting. An opposition spokesman said talks would resume Thursday and early parliamentary elections would be the main topic of discussion. "Only the dissolution of Parliament ... can restore conditions of normalcy," M.H.M. Ashroff, secretary of the minor Sri Lanka Muslim Congress (SLMC) said. The SLMC is a member of the seven-party alliance. [passage omitted]

### 5 Indian Soldiers Killed by LTTE in Vavuniya

*BK2110125588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 21 Oct 88*

[Text] In Sri Lanka, a working committee member of the ruling United National Party, Mr Tudor Keerthinanda, was killed when extremists threw a bomb into his car in a Colombo suburb. His wife and the driver were seriously injured. A woman police constable was gunned down in a separate incident.

Five Peacekeeping Force [PKF] personnel were killed when a PKF patrol was ambushed by LTTE militants in Vavuniya sector of northern Sri Lanka. In Jaffna, the PKF wounded one LTTE militant during an encounter near Kondavil railway station. One LTTE militant was also shot dead by unidentified persons at Jaffna bus stand today.

### Leading Tamil Politician Killed by 'Militants'

*BK2210091488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 22 Oct 88*

[Text] In Sri Lanka, a prominent Tamil politician, Mr Sivananda Sundaram, has been shot dead by militants. He was traveling in a minibus from Jaffna when the militants stopped the vehicle at Vellai near Point Pedro and killed him. It is not clear which militant group is involved in the killing. Our Jaffna correspondent says Mr Sivananda Sundaram, known for his sympathy for the LTTE, was among the three persons proposed by the LTTE last year for the office of the governor of the Northeastern Province when efforts were being made to form an interim council. A trade union leader, Mr Sundaram, was a former member of the Federal Party.

Meanwhile, JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] extremists killed a senior prison official in the Central Province this morning. With this the JVP has killed at least nine persons in the central and southern parts of Sri Lanka since the government announced the suspension of operations against the extremists for a week on Thursday [20 October 1988].

### JVP Claims Killing of UNP Member

*BK2310114088 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1048 GMT 23 Oct 88*

["OANA/pool" item]

[Excerpt] Colombo, Oct 23 (LANKAPUVATH)—Twelve persons were reported killed by unidentified assassins in separate incidents in Sri Lanka during the last 48 hours, according to security reports received today. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH they include a member of the working committee of the United National Party (UNP), Hambantota branch, an unsuccessful provincial council candidate of the UNP, a defeated provincial council candidate of the United Socialist Alliance (USAL) and a reserve police constable.

The sources said that Piyasena Warnakulasooriya, a member of the working committee of the UNP in Hambantota, was shot dead by two unidentified men armed with locally made guns (Galkatas) in Moraketiya in Sri Lanka's southern province district of Hambantota, Friday.

According to police the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) has claimed responsibility for the killing. [passage omitted]